

season's greetings

Happy Holidays

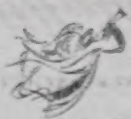
2003

To All Our Friends Across Haliburton County



Photo by Darren Lum

16-12-2003



HARK THE HAROLD

Does it matter if you don't know the lyrics when you're singing Christmas carols at the top of your lungs? Not as long as you "wreck the ralls with rougths of rorry, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah!"

By Steve Galea

At Christmas, our house had everything anyone could ask for. Well, everything except the right lyrics. It wasn't like we didn't try - we did - but now I can see we should have just hummed along.

There are a lot of reasons for this - attention deficit disorders, exceptional daydreaming skills, wax in the ears, but chief among them is the fact that my mother was the bandleader of any of the musical endeavour we decided to take.

Though she was a talented singer, you've got to understand that, to her, English was a second language. As such, it didn't make sense in the best of times.

Imagine then, the confusion she must have felt when old English words were thrown into the mix. Is it any wonder then that she never balked when my brother and I belted out the lyrics to "Oh gum all ye face full?" Her only question was whether this song wasn't better suited to Hallowe'en. We weren't helpful in the matter.

But what she lacked in knowledge she made up for in enthusiasm. As dad constantly proclaims, Marie is never at a loss for words - the words might be lost, but never Marie. Add to this the fact that Mom loves the Christmas season more than anyone on this planet and you'll see that it was only natural that her love of singing and her love of the season should collide.

Like all accidents, some great things emerged from the wreckage. The first being that any Christmas caroling

around our place put a visitor in mind of a karaoke-improv session. It was practically expected that, if your memory failed at the critical point in the song, you'd simply make something up and keep on singing. Mom wouldn't brook any less.

So we learned just to take liberties with the old classic and created some new ones of our own.

Take my personal favorite, "Silent knight, Woolly knight, Shepherds cringe at his tights, round yon fur pants the bugs going wild ..."

As long as you sang it with enough conviction, Mom never batted an eye-



Enthusiastic teens sing with gusto at Haliburton's Lakeside Baptist Church.

Together we'd raise our cracking voices to the heavens and belt out such classics as:

"The first snow, well,
The angels did zing,
Past two certain poor shepherds in heels, as they played,
In fields where they, played leaping with sheep
On a cold's winter's night where the wool was to keep."

"Snow well? Snow well? Snow Well? Snow Well?
Barney's the king of Israel."

Sure we weren't dead on when it came to accuracy, but we did manage to get all the major elements of the story in: sheep, shepherds, angels, King of Israel...you get the point.

And -bad in that at least she drowned out the rest of the family.

More than that, through this simple act, she bestowed upon all of her children, myself included, a strong appreciation for professional musicians. Now, when I go through a store or mall at Christmas and the overhead speakers releases yet another Yuletide song to the airways, I simply smile and hum along. That's because I've learned to be a good citizen.

And I've never thought of it until now, but maybe that's why I never quite hear my wife the way I should - after all, she's a Carol too.

- Steve Galea is an award-winning writer and humourist living on Vinegar Hill.

Holiday Greetings

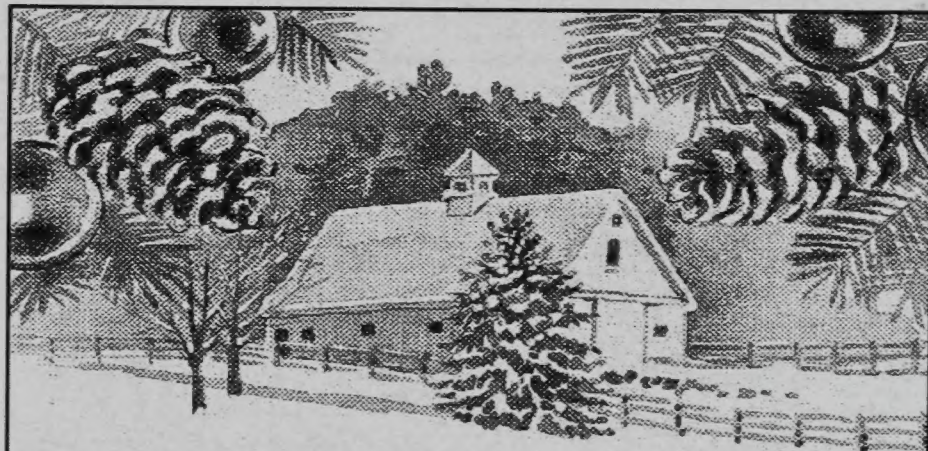
As the Christmas season draws upon us, excitement and anticipation build as the preparations begin. This celebration of traditions that surrounds us is enjoyed by many different people around the world.

While this year brings itself to a close, we extend our thanks and appreciation for your continued patronage, and look forward to the coming year.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes from our Company to Yours in the Year 2004.

Management and Staff of
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Note: Our office, fabrication and field operation will be closed from December 24th 2003 until January 5th 2004.



With You In Mind At Christmastime

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Judy, Josie, Kelli, Julie, Joan
and Matt



JESUS & GIFT-GIVING

Christmas gifts are just additional blessings to all the others we enjoy

By Matthew Walls

Five hundred and seventy-five. That is the average amount Canadians are expected to spend on gifts this Christmas. VISA alone expects Canadians to spend more than \$1 billion online.

If everybody is giving and getting at Christmas time, is anything wrong with it? Didn't the three wise men give gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus?

Nothing is wrong with gift-giving, says Reverend Christopher Greaves, of St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton; giving gifts helps to "nourish that selfless spirit that Christ showed."

But, he adds, giving gifts is only a symbol for the gift that Jesus Christ gave to humankind, "the gift of new life."

"Trees, presents, — they are symbols that point to the great humility of Christ's birth."

But lists, even lists are okay? Don't they encourage children to think more about what they want than the needs of others?

Lists are fine, Rev. Greaves says, joking that, "If children don't come up with a list, we don't know what they want."

More to the point, Greaves says, by making a list, children learn that they are worth buying a present for. And there is a pleasure for parents in seeing a happy child: "You can't deny sharing the joy and excitement a child feels."



This manger scene is displayed in the lobby of Allsaw Pentecostal Church.

Still, Greaves says children should be shown that these material joys are only symbols. Saying a prayer before opening presents, or reading a Christmas-themed scripture, he says, helps to show children that gifts are just "an additional blessing to all the others we have."

Giving gifts is a reminder, Greaves says, of the important relationship each person has with God: "The joy a child feels is the joy we feel every day from God, the gift-giver."

Gift-giving is not unique to Christmas, and its pleasures (and dangers) are well-known to those who celebrate other religious festivals.

Sneh Chakraburty, a retired doctor

who studies Hinduism and has written a book on Swami Chinmayananda, an internationally renowned Hindu teacher, says gift-giving is common during Divali, the Hindu festival of lights celebrating the harvest.

The giving of a gift is a symbolic act. Children receive a complete change of clothes as a sign of cleanliness, as well as some smaller, fun gifts.

But gift-giving has to be moderated, Chakraburty says, otherwise children will grow to expect to be indulged. She says this habit would eventually blind them to the fact that happiness does not lie in material things, rather than self-realization, contentedness and "onement

with others.

"Man thinks happiness lies in things. He has not been taught to travel back [into himself]."

Chakraburty, who would never allow children to draw up lists or buy her children extravagantly expensive gifts, is not as stringent with her grandchildren: "I ruin them whenever they come."

The tough-love job she leaves to her children, she laughs, though she does not trivialize the parent's role. It is the parents, Chakraburty says, who must teach their children the meaning behind the symbols of Christmas which, to her, is about giving love.

"We must teach children what is Christmas. Not for gift-giving and indulgence, but for giving us this great man with his knowledge, much of it misinterpreted."

The greatest gift she ever received was the dress-up song and dance act her grandchildren put on for her and her husband. Each New Year's Eve their extended family stays up all night and shares a prayer at midnight. One year, just before midnight, her grandchildren dressed up in costumes and sang songs they had learned from a famous Indian movie about another extended family.

"Togetherness, that sense of place and friendship and doing things together, that is the symbol of Christ saying there should be peace among families."

— Matthew Walls is a reporter with the *Minden Times*.



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Ed, Lynn And Chris



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Thank you for visiting us this past year.

from
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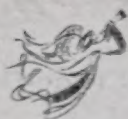
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TRADITION

Jennie and Charles Townsend started a Christmas tradition that carries on in the hearts and minds of their family

By Valerie Smith

As I stood gazing out the kitchen window looking upon the snow-covered backyard and admiring the long icicles dangling artfully from the eaves, I thought about the Christmas decorations I was about to put up. I thought about how the true meaning of Christmas has changed so much in the last 20 years or so. My mind took a trip back to when I was a child and things were simple and there was no such thing as being "politically correct" and we were able to celebrate openly.

I remembered another house that had long icicles hanging from its kitchen eaves; as you entered that kitchen from outside the warmth from the old wood cook stove would encompass you and the smell of a wonderful variety of food delights would assail your nostrils. Of course, I cannot forget the very best things of all – the great big hug from my grandma, Jennie Townsend. At the end of the big kitchen table would sit my grandpa, Charles Wellington Townsend with his big tea cup beside him, his cards spread out before him and that special smile that lit up not only his round face but the whole room.

Their home was always very special. However, at Christmas things even got better. Grandma put her heart and soul into Christmas and everyone around her joined right in. I was very young when Grandpa and Grandma were still in the old homestead but I will never forget that wonderful home full of friends and relatives, her Christmas tree, candy gum drop tree, three-tier Christmas cake, turkey, stuffing and all the other well prepared foods.

Everyone was willing to help, even the children. When Grandma wanted a preserve or pot of potatoes from what I referred to as her "magic pantry," I more



Christmas Day at the Townsends, 1940. Charles and Jennie's grandchildren pose outside the house: (back row) Olive (Townsend) Coburn, Mable (Townsend) Watson, Pete Townsend, Ethel (Townsend) Lewis, Hazel (Townsend) Gerow, Beatrice (Townsend) Hughey; (front row) Doreen (Townsend) Oakes, Don Townsend, Sherwood Townsend. Doreen is the mother of author Valerie (Oakes) Smith.

than willingly descended the ladder below the trap door in the floor to the earthy smelling root cellar below the house. A single light bulb cast a dim light upon the treasure trove of foods all neatly stored below. When I was a young girl I never gave a thought to how they got there nor all the hard work that went into doing down those preserves.

My grandparents' home may have lacked indoor facilities, central heating and running water but it never lacked that special, open hospitality. My mother told me that it had always been that way in her home and she took me back yet another 20 years to when she was a young girl at Christmas ...

Grandpa always brought home a big turkey for Grandma to cook. One year he proudly presented her with a 38 pound bird he had received from his boss while working at Erie Flooring. Grandma always cooked the fowl the day before Christmas so she placed it in her great big, huge, roast pan and cooked it on top of the woodstove. Along with turkey, Grandma always cooked a couple of geese and partridge as well.

Grandma would bake a three-tier cake for Christmas and one for New Years as well. Her Christmas cake she'd cover with white icing and decorate with red winter green candies and silver beaded candies. In the days just prior to Christmas, she would bake mincemeat, pumpkin, raisin pies and lots of bread. She would have Grandpa bring up cranberries from the granary for her to cook.

It is interesting to note the cranberries were handpicked by Grandpa from the wild cranberry marshes that used to line the shores of some of the local waterways. He would bring home packsacks full, dump them into a 45-gallon barrel where they would freeze. My mother remembers that one year the crop was so plentiful that he had the barrel almost full to the

Please see page 5

Ring in the Season on a High Note.

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Everyone!



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Best Wishes

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Many
Thanks**

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From:
Ray, Yolanda and Staff at

**Village
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From page 4

top. The cranberries would remain stored in the barrel in a frozen state until Grandma was ready to use them.

It was not only cranberries they stored this way; they would shred cabbage, place it layer upon layer in a 45 gallon drum, sprinkle with salt, press it tightly down into the brine, cover with cheese cloth and check it daily and remove any scum (mold) forming on top of liquid. Eventually they had sauerkraut which was a big part of their diet.

Back to Christmas morning: Grandma would get up early and stuff the already-cooked turkey, pile her special stuffing all around it and on top of it and heat it upon the woodstove. Pots of turnip and potatoes would boil away merrily alongside the turkey. At 12 noon, for that was the given hour, they always sat down to eat – everyone would come to the table and join in for the meal. The turkey was always moist and the stuffing was mouth-watering.

The mealtime did not end when that group was finished eating. Throughout the afternoon visitors would drop by and would be welcomed to sit in and have something to eat. By the end of the afternoon upward to 25, 30 people would have had dinner.

Following the noon dinner, everyone would migrate to the Christmas tree in the

living room. The tree was selected, cut down and hauled home by Grandpa. It was adorned with special candles to represent the glory and beauty of the stars above Bethlehem and other traditional decorations hung from its branches.

Charles and Jennie Townsend were not wealthy with possessions but they were rich in love and everyone would find a present under the tree. Each gift would be neatly wrapped in green, red or white tissue paper. Grandma would hand-knit mittens or socks for the children and for couples, she would embroider beautiful pillowcases or dresser scarves. Along with being an excellent cook, Grandma was a very fine seamstress.

Following the opening of gifts the remainder of the day was filled with more people dropping in, laughter, hugs, board games and card games. People walked with their families to their home; came by wagon, car and Mom remembers one year her nieces Donna and Rosaline being pulled in

a sleigh by their pet dog. It was a day of merriment and good cheer.

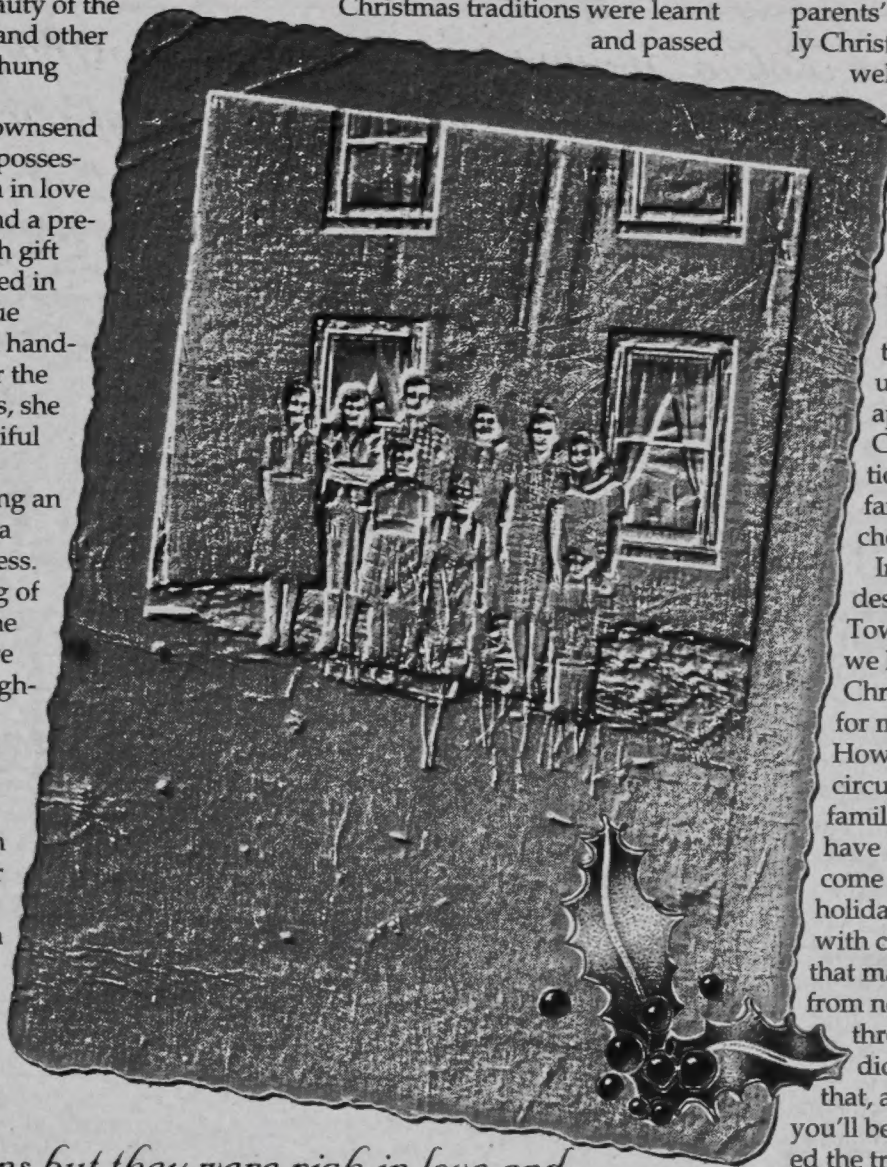
Grandpa and Grandma Townsend's Christmas traditions were learnt and passed

down to them by each of their own ethnic backgrounds. They in turn provided their family with a wonderful Christmas. My parents' generation provided warm family Christmas celebrations for us and now, well over 90 years later, descendants of Charles and Jennie are gathering their families together in groups of 40s, 20s etc. and celebrating Christmas.

Regardless of our feelings concerning Christmas celebrations today, it is clear we owe a great deal to our ancestors who shared their Christmas traditions. In understanding our heritage we can appreciate the real meaning of Christmas – birth of Christ, celebration of love, life and happiness, family togetherness and warm and cheery best wishes to all.

In many cases and as in the descendants of Charles and Jennie Townsend, we are very fortunate that we have such a rich tapestry of Christmas celebrations before us and for many of us, tradition is tradition. However, we must keep in mind that circumstances are different and each family is unique. If your family doesn't have a special Christmas tradition, come up with an idea and start one this holiday season. The human race is filled with creatures of habit. We want things that make us feel good to remain. Years from now, when everyone is going through the same motions as they did the last year and the year before that, and smiles are big and bright, you'll be glad you were the one who started the tradition.

– Valerie Smith is a historian, a school board trustee and the author of the Echo's weekly column, Harcourt News.



CHARLES AND JENNIE

Townsend were not wealthy with possessions but they were rich in love and everyone would find a present under the tree. Each gift would be neatly wrapped in green, red or white tissue paper.



On the way to Christmas

We'd like to express our appreciation for your support and wish everyone a very happy season!

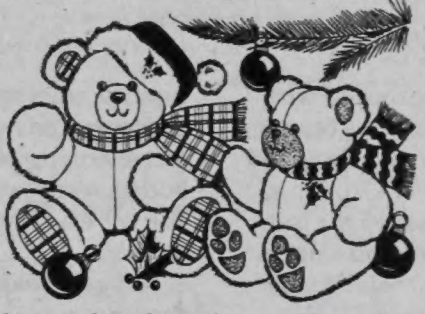
Wayne deJong

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A Bear-y Merry Christmas!



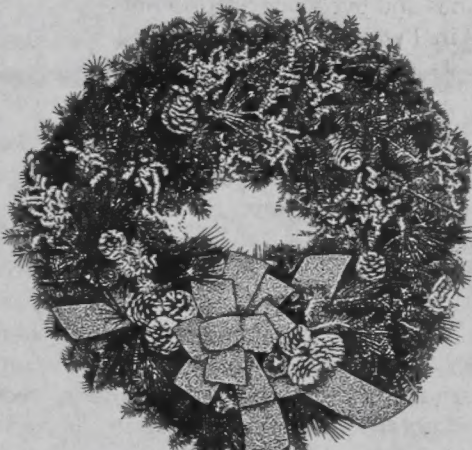
Wishing you lots of warm hugs, and happy hours with your loved ones over the holidays.

Thanks for making us very happy this year.

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GODDESS OF THE SEA

For Robyn Thomas, Christmas 'Down Under' wasn't always about the lamb. Sometimes it was about the jellyfish. Sometimes, it was love.

By Robyn M. Thomas - WC 1080

Years have washed as flotsam upon distant shores, since I spent Christmas in my youth "down under," but the memories haven't floated away. Memories of Aotearoa, New Zealand and my Dad rising early Christmas morning, greeted by sunshine filtering through ruby pohutakawa blossoms and bellbirds welcoming the day with a joyous trill; a summer song, still gladden my heart. Pottering about the kitchen Dad would light a cigarette and boil the kettle for an obligatory cup of tea or two. He would take his time choosing exactly the right size metal pan to roast a fresh spring lamb, sprinkled with pungent mint and nestled in a bed of tiny cream potatoes dug early that morning, golden kumara and perfect peas, pods picked at dawn, remnants remaining from raiding child fingers. This lamb was Christmas dinner straight from the lush paddocks of my uncle's farm up the Whanganui River.

Of course, the lamb in the pan could have been "Lambo" or "Rambo" any one of the woolly creatures' beloved by all of my cousins, taken to school for show and tell, meticulously groomed for Pet Day and sometimes even bottle-fed when the ewe rejected it. We kids tried not to think too hard about the untimely demise of the little darling, as there would always be a new "Lambo" next year. Besides this would be the best tasting hunk of meat to grace our plates for the Festive Season!

Christmas, however, wasn't always about the lamb. Some years when the sun was so hot and no cooling wind wafted through windows opened wide, Mum and Dad and my aunts and uncles would pack a picnic tea and the whole family would head for the beach. Crayfish soaked in vinegar and slat and pepper a particular delight and chunks of succulent pork steamed slowly in a neighbourhood hangi - a pit of coals and stones and potato sacks buried deep in the ground - were edibles tucked safely into flax kits. My favourite dessert, Pavlova, beautiful as a ballerina's tutu - stiff as tulle on the outside, soft as a



Robyn Thomas says it was always a tradition to get pictures of the family on Christmas in New Zealand playing in the water and this is her at an unknown age puddling about.

dream on the inside and drizzled with passion fruit, beckoned. Mum's brandy-soaked Christmas cake oozing fruit and nuts and stuffed with silver sixpences, secrets to be found, was saved for last.

Sand clinging to our toes and fingers mingled with picnic bites. Salt breezes curled through our hair.

There were paua shells to collect and silver driftwood to clamber upon. Wild

tussock grass sprouting as green surprises from windswept dunes provided perfect snoozing places when our bellie and bodies were satiated with food and fun. We were a family and we were all together.

As I grew older and fled the nest, venturing across the Tasman to Australia, Xmas took on whole new meaning. One Christmas morning I awoke in the mid-

dle of nowhere, in Kajabbi, a one pub town. This Pub, the only hive of activity for miles around, mangy yellow dogs wandering in and out scrounging for scraps and a cool place to lie, was owned by family friends and frequented by aboriginal stockmen and hardnosed station managers. These worn men were looking for a good time, throwing darts and socking back warm beers on Friday night until they tumbled off the barstools drunk, sleeping where they landed on an unforgiving floor.

We had gone driving down a dusty road, the only road into Kajabbi, a road that went forever across barren flats, but went nowhere for us that night. There we were, chasing kangaroos in our Holden station wagon a bunch of girls, best friends, living in the desert with not much else to do on Xmas Eve. Across the desert, a "willy-willy" sprang up, winds swirling, uprooting scrub, uprooting us, blanketing everything, our car, ourselves in stinging sand. So we stayed put right outside the pub that night, knocking back beers inside the Holden, feet hanging out the windows and waiting for the stillness of dawn. No Xmas tree, no presents, no food, just a pile of empty beer stubbies, stale breath and gurgling bellies. Our friendships were forged forever.

Naturally, Australia wasn't all desert and rundown pubs. Spending Christmas at Coogee beach, as I dove like a porpoise beneath cresting waves, blue-green, was paradise. A glass of chilled Chablis in hand and gobbling huge rose-coloured prawns, served right on the seashore in every little wine bar, doors flung open, patrons slick and sandy was definitely my idea of Christmas cheer.

It was a good time, while it lasted. Prancing about in the waves, thinking I was Pania, Goddess of the Sea. I swam through a school of blue bottles. Now, that isn't any sort of exotic drink accompanied by a yellow parasol you understand.

Those blue bottles whipped me with their jellyfish tails, red welts striated my arms, legs, everything and I could hear someone far away screaming and screaming, as if all the torment in the

Please see page 7

**Tidings of joy
and most merry
wishes to our
good friends
everywhere!**

**Merry Christmas
&
Many Thanks
For Your
Patronage!**



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and
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Please see page 7

world were upon them.

Regaining consciousness in a Sydney Hospital the next day, I picked at Xmas Dinner, a tasteless something served on a plastic plate in a pallid green room with a sad little tree tucked in the corner. Lucky for me, I was warmed by kind embraces and smiling faces, the faces of loved ones - my family and friends.

A myriad of Xmas's spent here and there decorate my past. The memories of my children playing in the snow, turkeys roasting in the oven and the spicy aroma of pumpkin pies wafting through the house are different from my youthful memories. We'll decorate the house together with cedar bows, shining red balls and a real Christmas tree tucked in the corner, branches encircled with tiny winking lights. The girls will help me bake Christmas cake, not stuffed with sixpences, but using their grandmother's brandy-laden recipe. Perhaps we'll whip up a Pavlova, the dram of my childhood, which won't flop in the middle if you hold our mouths right!

Sometimes Christmas is all about the lamb and sometimes it's all about the jellyfish, but I believe, most of the time it doesn't matter where in the world you are, Christmas is all about the spirit of sharing. Children warming chilled toes and family picnics upon the golden shores of Aotearoa and remembering loved ones gone, those who no longer potter about the kitchen, searching for the perfect roasting pan and the loving hearts of family and community - that is Christmas to me.

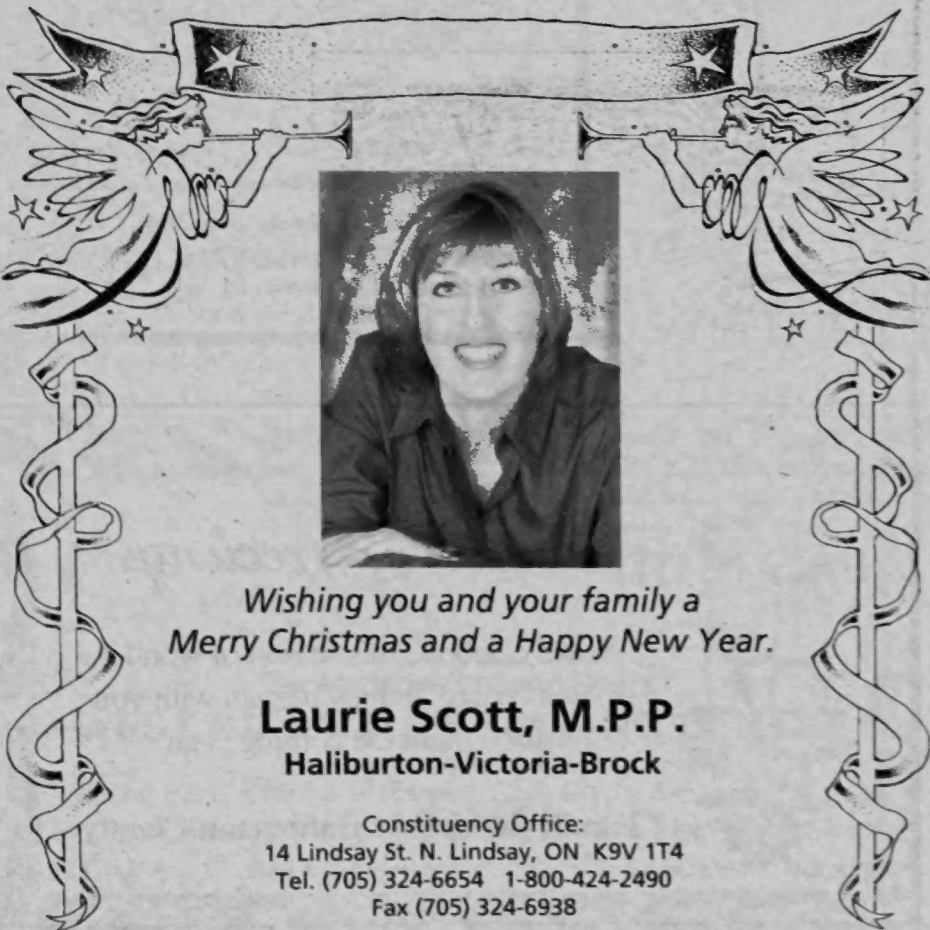
- Robyn Thomas is a writer living in the Haliburton area.



ROBYN THOMAS (above, in the center) flanked by friends on Coogee Beach in Sydney, Australia on a Christmas Day in the 1970s - just before she was stung by a jellyfish.

Right, Robyn on the afternoon of Christmas Eve in the Australian outback





Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Laurie Scott, M.P.P.
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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



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In lieu of Christmas cards a donation was made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation this year.



DOGS were more popular than kids at a fund-raising photo shoot with Santa held for the Stanhope Fire Department at Pine Reflections last weekend. Emily Brooksbank brought along little Pichu who, as a puppy, was meeting Santa for the first time. Reflections owner Gina Atkinson says she thinks next year they will advertise it just as a chance for pets to have their pictures taken with Santa. Photo by Sheryl Loucks.

HOLIDAY FILM GUIDE

Suggestions from Erin Lynch

It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

Directed by Frank Capra
Starring James Stewart and Donna Reed

An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing him what life would be like if he never existed.

Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

Directed by George Seaton
Starring Maureen O'Hara and John Payne

When a nice old man who claims to be Santa Claus is institutionalized as insane, a young lawyer decides to defend him by arguing in court that he is the real thing.

Scrooge (1951)

Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst
Starring Alastair Sim and Kathleen Harrison

Based on the classic, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, An old bitter miser

is given a chance for redemption when he is haunted by ghosts on Christmas Eve.

A Christmas Story (1983)

Directed by Bob Clark

Starring Darren McGann, Melinda Dillon and Peter Billingsly
Ralphie has to convince his parents, teachers and Santa Claus that a Red Ryder BB gun is the perfect gift for him

Prancer (1989)

Directed by John D Hancock
Jessica, the daughter of an impoverished apple farmer, comes across a reindeer with an injured leg.

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Directed by Henry Selick
Starring the voice of Jack Skellington
Animation
Written by Tim Burton

The Pumpkin King of Halloween Town decides to change Christmas into another Halloween. He kidnaps Santa and takes it on to deliver gifts to unsuspecting children.

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (2000)

Directed by Ron Howard
Starring: Jim Carrey

Based on the book by Dr. Seuss, an elfin creature tries to steal Christmas.

Greetings to All

Warmest Yuletide wishes to you and yours.
Many thanks for your support.

John E. Francis Fuels

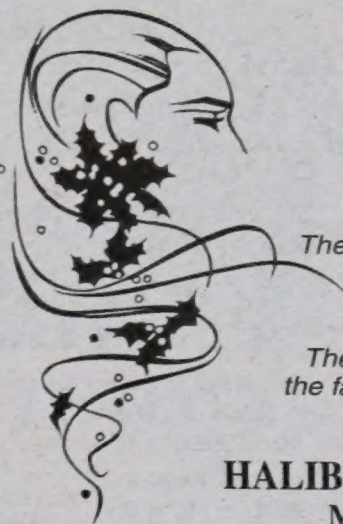
Ken, Ted, Ingun & Jennifer



Peace On Earth

All the best to you and yours this holiday season. We appreciate your business.

Management & Staff
VASEY INSURANCE
Brokers Ltd.
Minden & Haliburton



*The
Spirit
Of The
Season*

There is nothing more beautiful than
Your ready smile,
Your gentle eyes,
Your warm "Hello."

There's nothing more beautiful than
the face of friendship you've shown us.

Thank you from
HALIBURTON HAIRDRESSING
Marion, Margo & Joanne



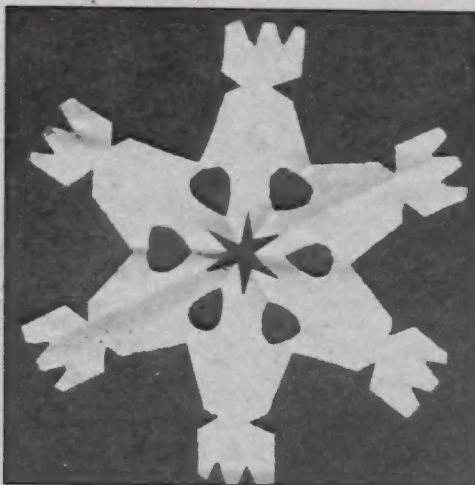
Season's Greetings

As we celebrate this season of wonder,
may its peace and joy remain with you
throughout the coming year.

Family Services of Haliburton County

SNOWFLAKES

Make a six-point snowflake ... without snow!



By Trudy Pogue

This is the time of year for making paper snowflakes. Often these snowflakes are square or round. Here's an easy way to make a snowflake with six points.

What you'll need:

- white paper
- a pair of scissors
- a pencil
- a round item about the size you want your snowflake to be (for example, a saucer or cup).

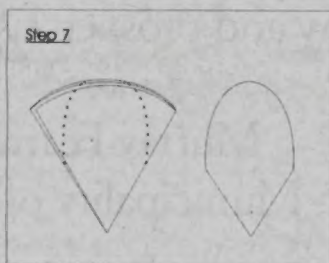
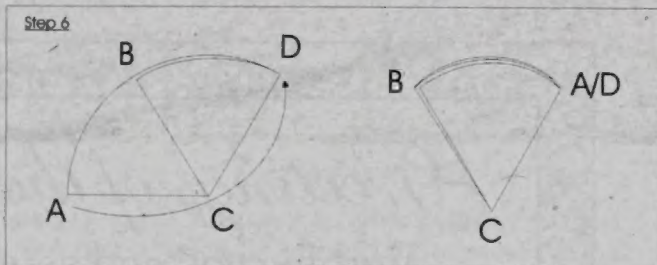
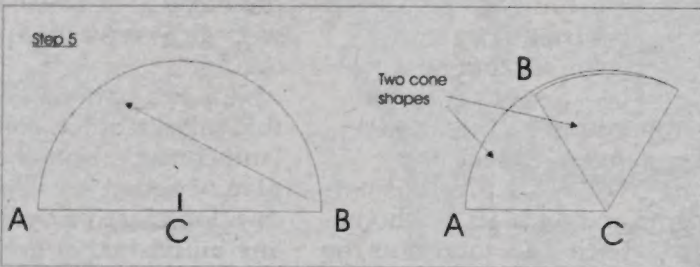
1. Place the round item on the paper and trace around it with your pencil.

2. Cut out the circle.

3. Fold the circle in half.

Your paper is now a semi-circle with a straight edge on the bottom, a round edge on the top, and two points (A and B).

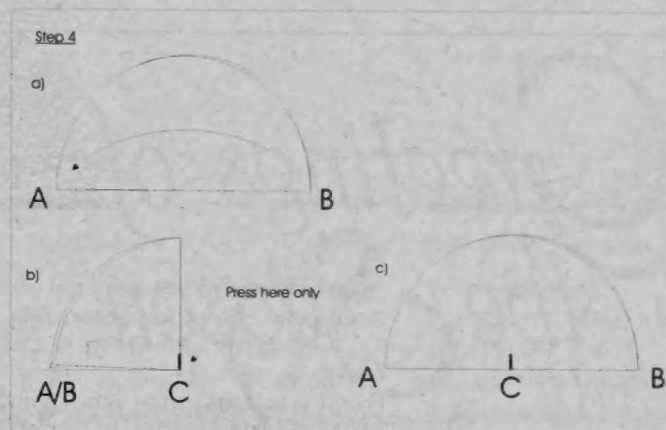
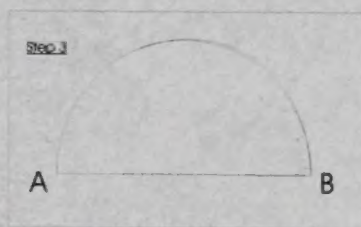
4. In this step, you mark the midpoint of the straight edge of the semi-circle (C)



with a short crease. Bring the two points of the semi-circle (A and B) together as if you were folding in half again. Press and fold only a small section near the straight edge to create a short crease,

and then unfold.

5. Using the midpoint (C), fold the semi-circle into thirds by bringing the right



point (B) over to the left side of the round edge. You should see two cone shapes (or thirds). Take the time to ensure that they are the same size, and then press to fold.
6. Fold the left point (A) behind the paper to the new point (D). Your paper is now a single cone shape.
7. With your scissors, round off the top two corners of your cone.

Your paper is now shaped like an ice cream cone with one tall scoop!
8. Using your scissors, cut small shapes out of the edges of your folded paper. To make sure your snowflake comes out in one piece, don't cut out entire edges. The space you leave between cuts will hold the snowflake together.

9. Unfold the paper to reveal your six-point snowflake.

Tips

- When placing your round item on the paper, put it as close to the edges as possible. This will let you fit more circles on a

piece of paper.

- For best results, make your snowflake points symmetric by cutting out the same pattern on both sides of the ice cream cone.

— Trudy Pogue is a crafty person who doesn't mind snow in the least. Especially when it's made of paper!

The merriest
of holidays to you
and Thanks
for your loyal
patronage

The Management and Staff of
WEST GUILFORD SHOPPING CENTRE

Bill and Edna, Chad & Stephenie, Cori, Chase & Ellie Burden,
Pat Morrison, Rhonda Shaw, Meghan Shaw, Kasia Siek, Adam Sisson,
Chris Chumbley, Leslie Chumbley, Breanna Allin & Nicholas Chumbley

DAVE LORI JANINE ANN ELIZABETH ALICE SUE

Dave, Michele, Melanie, Luke & Emily Shapiera
Along with the staff Lori, Janine, Ann, Elizabeth, Alice and Sue.

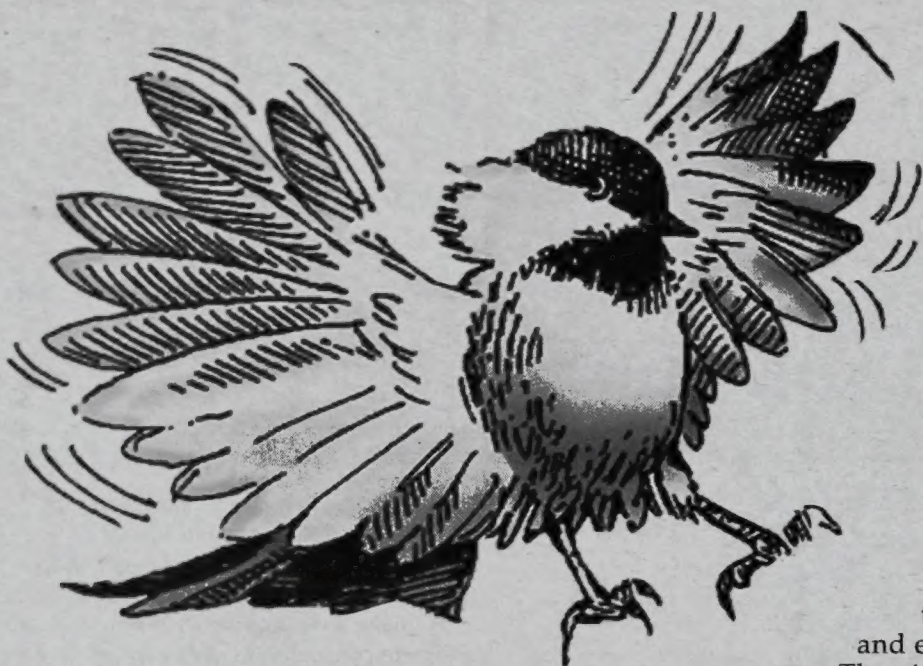
Our Best Holiday Wishes To You.

Have A Very Merry Season With Family & Friends.
Thank You For Your Support & Loyalty.

DAVID A.P. SHAPIERA B.A., LL.B.
Barrister & Solicitor

GIFTS TO GO WILD ABOUT

Nature Conservancy of Canada encourages people to give a gift that will protect wildlife



This holiday season, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is inviting people to give a meaningful gift that will last forever - a Homes for the Holidays gift. NCC's Homes for the Holidays program offers Canadians a special opportunity to give a gift to a friend or family member that also creates a safe haven for this country's threatened and endangered species. The gift given is the precious natural habitat these plants and animals call home. Each \$30 Homes for the Holidays gift made goes toward the pur-

chase of threatened habitat. To acknowledge each gift, NCC will send the recipient a special holiday package that includes:

- An 8 1/2" x 11", full-colour 2004 Canada: A Place to be Wild calendar with photos of some of the imperiled species whose habitat is being protected;
- A personalized certificate indicating the number of acres saved;
- A personalized letter acknowledging the gift to them;
- A copy of NCC's newsletter, The Ark.

For a donation of \$120 or more, the gift giver will receive an additional calendar.

Ecologically minded gift givers are invited to phone NCC at 1-800-465-0029 or visit the NCC website at www.natureconservancy.ca to order online.

NCC is a national, non-profit organization that takes a quiet, collaborative approach to land conservation and wildlife preservation. Its plan of action is to build partnerships and develop creative conservation solutions with any individual or group that shares its passion.

Since 1962, NCC and its supporters have protected over 1.8 million acres across Canada.

Greetings of the Season

It is you, our very special friends, who have put the "Happy" in our "Holidays" and we thank you very much!

At this most joyous time of year, we extend to you and your family best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. We look forward to your continued patronage and invite you to visit us again soon.

The Management and Staff of
SID STAMP FUELS LTD.

Minden 286-1088

Brian & Dorothy Black, Jeff & Christina Black,
Judy Hardy, Bryan Hughes,
Jamie Jones, Tim Turcotte, Grant Shaw,
David Farrell, Dan Arbour & Vicki Dollo

Greetings of the Season

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Murray Fearrey
Reeve - Municipality of Dysart et al

Season's Greetings



from all the
staff at

V&S
HALIBURTON

and

**Crafts 'n
More...**

SLEIGH BELLS

Take a sleigh ride and help your neighbours

By Sheryl Loucks

Cec Andrus fell in love with Haliburton while visiting his uncle's home on Hilltop Road in the early 1970s so when the home burned on November 5, he sincerely sympathized with its recent occupants, the Henwood family.

Andrus moved to the road himself in 1990 and only just recently moved to a hobby farm in Boulter, a small place northeast of Bancroft. The tragic fire brought to mind a time when his uncle, Rus Andrus, had housed a family in that very house when their home had burned.

"He was very benevolent to everybody. He was one of the founding members of the Haliburton Lions Club. I learned some things from him. You can't always take. You can't be smug in life," says Andrus.

Despite the fact that he no longer lives on the road, Andrus wanted to do the neighbourly thing and help out. He decided to offer the public an opportunity to go for a traditional horse drawn sleigh ride on the lovely grounds of the Delta Pinestone on the afternoon of December 21. The public is welcome to come any time from 1 p.m. on. He will be collecting donations in return for the sleigh ride with proceeds going to assist the Henwood family.



Cec Andrus and his team, Jack and Fred, will be giving sleigh rides at the Delta Pinestone as a fundraiser for the Henwood family on December 21

Andrus had a background working with horses but for most of his career has been in long-haul trucking.

He decided to switch gears from living "at a 100km an hour to about three miles an hour" when he traded

his truck for a team of Belgian horses. Andrus uses his horses, Jack and Fred, to log the bush, a practice growing in popularity. In the winter he also does traditional sleigh rides for Pinestone guests.

"We go for a ride around the golf

course and stop at a grove of trees for photos. Everyone just loves it," he says.

Andrus says if there is a positive reaction on Dec. 21 then he would like to make the sleigh ride an annual fundraiser to assist those in need.

Hairstyling in your Home

We would like to wish all my clients friends & family A Very Merry Christmas and all the Best for 2004!

Laurie, Ross, Bradford, Rachel, Heidi and Jessie

WARMEST GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

Mike's Gun Repair
Loon Lake

PAT & MIKE GRINNELL
457-1859

Kash Landing Cafe

We Would Like To Thank Everyone For Their Patronage.

Wishing Everyone A Very Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year.

R.R.#1 Minden, Ont.
705-286-3303 Linda & Guido



a Note of Thanks

... And a round of applause for all our good friends and neighbors.

May you enjoy a most harmonious holiday season.

The Magic Touch Salon

Sandi & Colin, Pat, Cheryl, Chris, Jean & Barb



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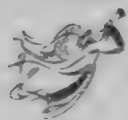
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DIV. OF PLANNED BENEFITS INC.

HALIBURTON

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Season's Greetings

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.



HOLIDAY HOUSEPLANTS

Here's some tips to keep your poinsettia, amaryllis and Christmas cactus happy

By Erin Lynch

Besides a Christmas tree, the most common holiday greenery are a poinsettia, a Christmas cactus and an amaryllis. Here are a few facts to keep your holiday houseplants looking festive throughout the season.

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia Pulcherrima*) originates from Mexico. The Aztecs called the poinsettia "cuetlaxochitl." During the 14th to the 16th century, the sap was used to control fevers and leaf bracts were used to make a red-dish dye. In nature, poinsettias cannot grow in high altitudes and are perennial flowering shrubs that grow up to ten feet tall.

The showy coloured part of the poinsettia that most people think of as the flowers are actually coloured bracts, modified leaves. The flowers are in the centre of the bracts. Contrary to what many people think, poinsettias are not poisonous.

Although poinsettias are very sensitive to cold they do like a cooler night-time temperature. Don't allow the plant to touch cold windows. If possible, move the plant to a cooler room for the night. High temperatures will shorten the plant's life.

Fertilize the poinsettia once a month if you keep it past the holiday season.

Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera*) is a fleshy, flattened segmented joint cactus that has showy flowers, ranging in colour from white through pink, red and purple. They are closely related to Easter Cactus (*Schlumbergera gaertneri*) and the Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncates*). Native to Brazil, they live in the crotches of jungle trees and benefit from light porous soil mixed with leaf mold and sand.

Easy to grow, Christmas cactus can be raised from cuttings taken at almost any time of the year as long as the plant is not flowering. Cuttings should be broken off and allowed to

Don't over water. It is a cactus.

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) is a bulb which originates from Brazil. Care is the same whether you are planting an old or new bulb. Plant a bulb in a pot

appear six weeks after planting. Rotate plant every day so to prevent it from leaning toward the light. Once flowering has stopped, cut flowering stock off with sharp knife, but do not



dry for a few hours before being inserted into a pot. Keep moist until growth appears.

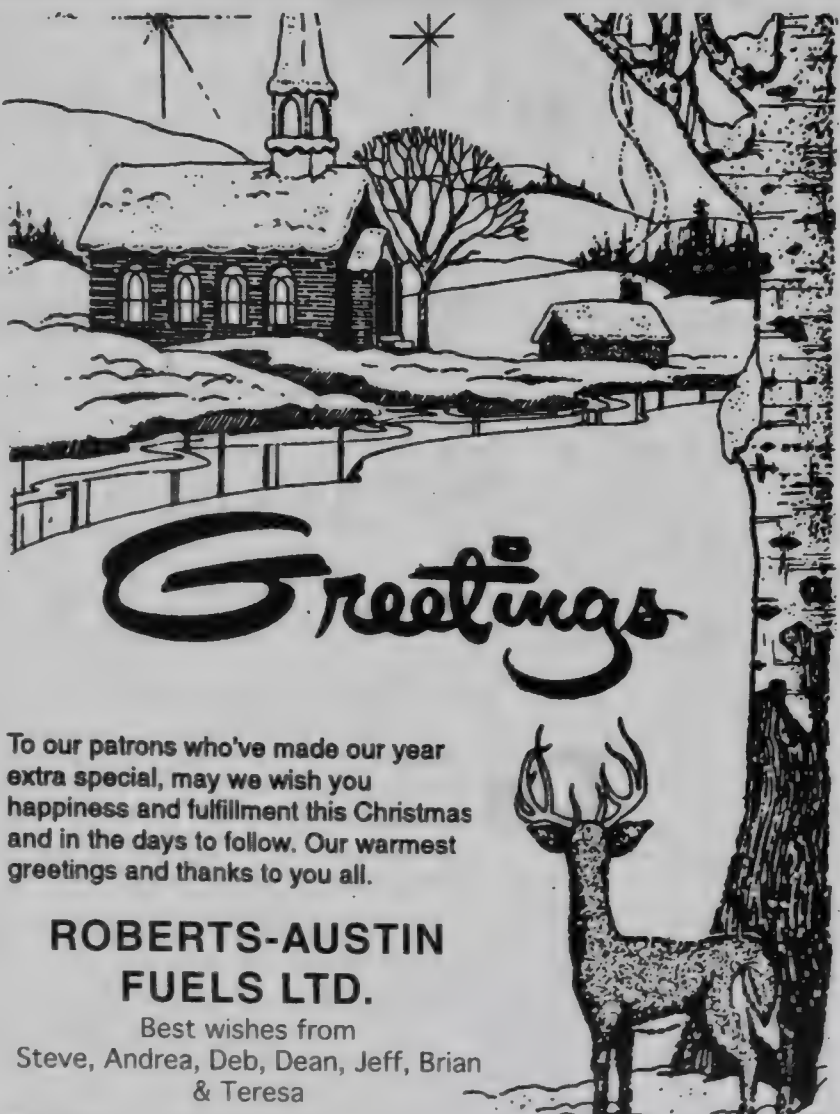
A common complaint is that flowers drop off before they open. Moving plants from their light window position, fluctuating temperatures, and the amount of water given can account for why plants may shed buds early.

1 to 2 inches larger in diameter than the base of the bulb. Repot old bulbs in fresh potting soil, leaving 1/2 to 2/3 of bulb above the soil line. After planting, water and put in a bright cool room. Keep away from direct sun. Water only when soil is fairly dry.

Once top growth begins, move pot to a sunny window. Flowers should

remove any leaves. Keep in a bright location and fertilize once a month.

At the end of September take Amaryllis to the basement and lay pot and all on side. After two months, remove dead, dried leaves and roots from the bulb. Plant the bulb in a clean pot with new soil. Water thoroughly and place in a sunny window.



Greetings

To our patrons who've made our year extra special, may we wish you happiness and fulfillment this Christmas and in the days to follow. Our warmest greetings and thanks to you all.

**ROBERTS-AUSTIN
FUELS LTD.**

Best wishes from
Steve, Andrea, Deb, Dean, Jeff, Brian
& Teresa

Season's Greetings 

from
Crafters' Warehouse

In Stedmans Mall - Lower Level - Haliburton Village

BRRRIGHTWISHES AT THE HOLIDAYS

The chill is in the air but we're filled with warmth when we think of all the great people we've had the pleasure to meet this year.
Merry Christmas, everyone!

**Merry Christmas!
Job Connect**

Denise, Bernie, Delaine
& Autumn

FLEMING
881 SANDFORD FLEMING COLLEGE

This program is sponsored by
The Government of Ontario





THE ECHO *would like to thank Campbell's Flowers in Minden for providing these beautiful models (this page and previous) for photographer Darren Lum.*



Blessings of the Season

A heartfelt thank you to all our clients for their patronage this past year.

Our office will be closed from December 23, 2003 to January 4, 2004 (inclusive).

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ray, Sharon, Laurie & Heather

LAW OFFICE

Raymond Selbie & Staff



The staff and management would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that supported us this year. We wish you a happy holiday season for you and your family.

Daniel Allen, Ken Armstrong, Nicole Babin, Alexander, William Brown, Adam C. Brown, Kevin Brown, Garry Chisler, Steve Cusack, William Lee, Ryan Dymowski, Sean Egan, Peter Gauthier, Joe Gendron, Suzanne Miller, Dennis Mason, Dan Meade, Matthew Meade, Vincent Meade, Ed Ryan, Pauline, Mary Beth, Russ Roth, Clerk Wilson, Mary Joann, Janet Evelyn, Janet Keweenaw, Ryan Keweenaw, Lisa Keweenaw, Anthony Savatier, Rob Thompson, Gene Trudell, Ed Trudell, Rob Trudell, Kim Trudell.



WINTER AND HOLIDAY OPERATING HOURS

Open 7:30-5:00 Monday - Saturday
EXCEPT December 24 - Open 7:30-1:00
December 25 - Closed, December 26 - Closed
December 31 - Open 7:30-1:00
January 1 - Closed
Starting January 3 - Open Saturdays 9:00-1:00 until Easter



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KIDS' BOOKS TO BUY

Christmas toys may come and go but books' magic can last a lifetime

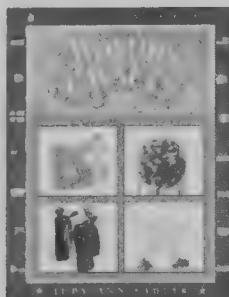
By Steve Galea

Some gifts are timeless. A child will outgrow toys, skates or clothing, but the memories of these things can last a lifetime. The same, of course, can be said of a good book. The ideas, and the magic of the words held within, are carried with you wherever you go. The best of them can influence perceptions, make you feel and foster a love of language. But even a simple book can cause a child and parent to share a special bond.

Here then are three books that do just that and are appropriate to the season:

Christmas Crafts from around the World
By Judy Ann Sadler
Illustrated by June Bradford
For Ages 7 to 11/ Grade 2 to 6

40 pages
Hard Cover \$14.95
Paperback \$6.95



Looking for a way to keep your kids occupied over the holiday season? If so, this book is a great choice. The



Book reviewer Steve Galea reads Elliot's Christmas Surprise to his daughter, Carmen.

mainstays of this book are 14 crafts representing Christmas traditions from all over the world. Your kids can make everything from a nativity scene to a party piñata.

Each section explains the craft and its significance in the country of origin. For instance, in Holland, the Sinterklaas sack is traditionally used by Santa to leave Christmas gifts at the front door. More than that, Yuletide Greetings for each of the countries that are represented are taught as well. If nothing else, your kids will understand the universality of Christmas.

The required materials are inexpensive and easy to come by. Similarly, the skills needed are well within the ability of children in the prescribed age groups.

But the best part of all is that this book just might introduce some great new traditions to your family's Christmas.

I Can Make That
Written by Mary Wallace
160 pages
8.5 by 10.5 inches
Ages 4 and up
Full color photography
Hardcover \$19.95

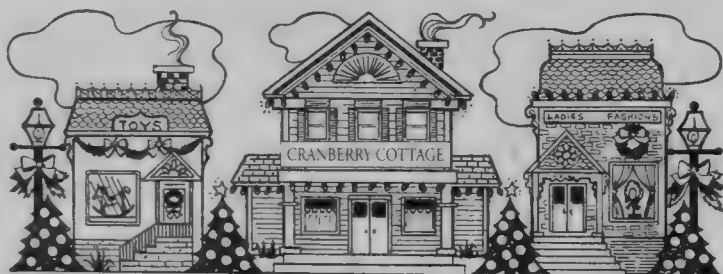
Billed as an anti-boredom collec-

Please see page 15

Have a safe and happy holiday season from

**CRANBERRY COTTAGE
COUNTRY STORE**

Ruth, Suzanne, Margo & Kendra



Let The Joy Of Christmas Ring

This, our favourite time of year, is filled with good friends, good times, and much good cheer.

Here's wishing you happy holidays and a very healthy and happy new year!

From the Management and Staff



Haliburton • Minden



SEASON'S GREETINGS

and many thanks
for all the
recommendations
during the year.

Holley, John & Family & Staff
at the

LAKEVIEW MOTEL



from

SHAMROCK SERVICE CENTRE

Greg, Rose, Tracy & Tara Tibbitts

Happy Holidays

We are truly
grateful for
your friendship
and support



From page 14

tion, this is one of those books that can stand hard use and close scrutiny by even the most hardened critics - namely your kids. Deftly divided into five sections - Costumes, Puppets, Toys, Nature, Crafts and Games - within each of those sections are a dozen or so exciting crafts to fire a child's imagination. Some,

like the orange smile, are simple and actually quite hilarious. Others, the toy train, for example, require some adult supervision and harder to get material. With a little effort, how-

ever, all these projects are ultimately doable.

My own kids fell in love with this book by the former Haliburton resident. Even the complex projects we're beautifully photographed so that they simply enjoyed looking at the photos and reading the instructions. We've even planned on picking up the materials, most of which can be found in any dollar store, for some of the most complex crafts.

It should also be noted that almost every project will appeal to a son or daughter. That, in my humble opinion is no small feat.

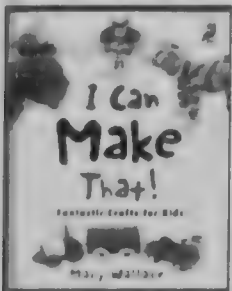
Almost immediately, Ryan, Carmen and I did sit down together and enjoyed a few of the simpler projects including the clever clothespin race cars. Carol helped the kids produce a couple of the sock-based puppets. All and all, the book enthralled and entertained the kids and kept my son Ryan reading for hours.

Award-winning author Mary Wallace did a fine job. This book is a great addition to any child's library. As promised, it's one they'll revisit time and time again.

Elliot's Christmas Surprise

By Andrea Beck

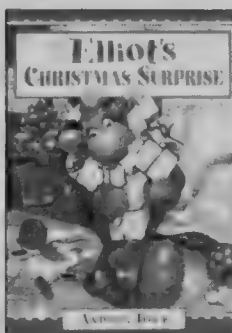
Ages 3 to 7/ Pre-K to Grade 2
32 pages



RYAN AND CARMEN Salea (above) show off the crafts they made from their books; at right, Ryan and Carmen snuggle up to read about Elliot Moose.

Photos by Darren Lum

Hardcover \$12.95
Paperback \$5.95

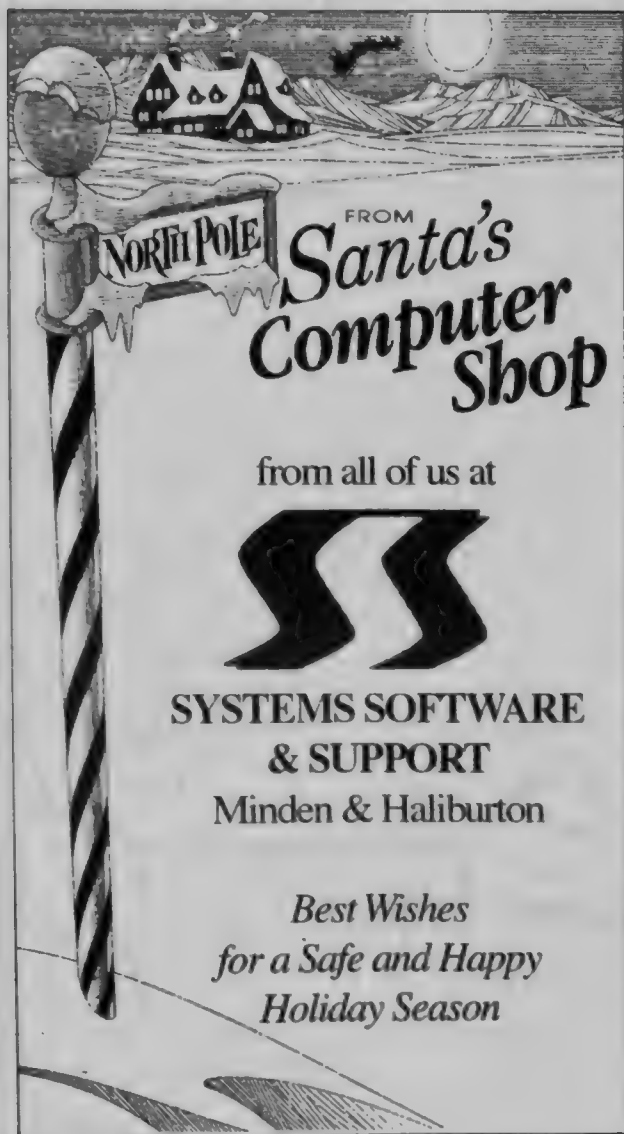


If you've ever read a child an Elliot Moose story, you understand what all the fuss is about. The characters are lovable, the stories enjoyable and the illustrations rich, colorful and superb.

As children's books go, author Andrea Beck continues to set the bar.

This tale is no different. Elliot, a lovable moose and his woodland friends learn the time-honored lesson that it is better to give than to receive. With child in lap, it's about a ten minute read and worth every second. My daughter Carmen was captivated by the artwork and held quiet by the lesson within. It's a nice Christmas story for the young ones.

If you've got a little one, no doubt they'll enjoy it just as much as you did.

FROM THE NORTH POLE
Santa's Computer Shop

from all of us at

SS

SYSTEMS SOFTWARE & SUPPORT
Minden & Haliburton

Best Wishes
for a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season



Season's Greetings

To all residents, cottage owners and local businesses that supported us through the year...we would like to say -

Thank You,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

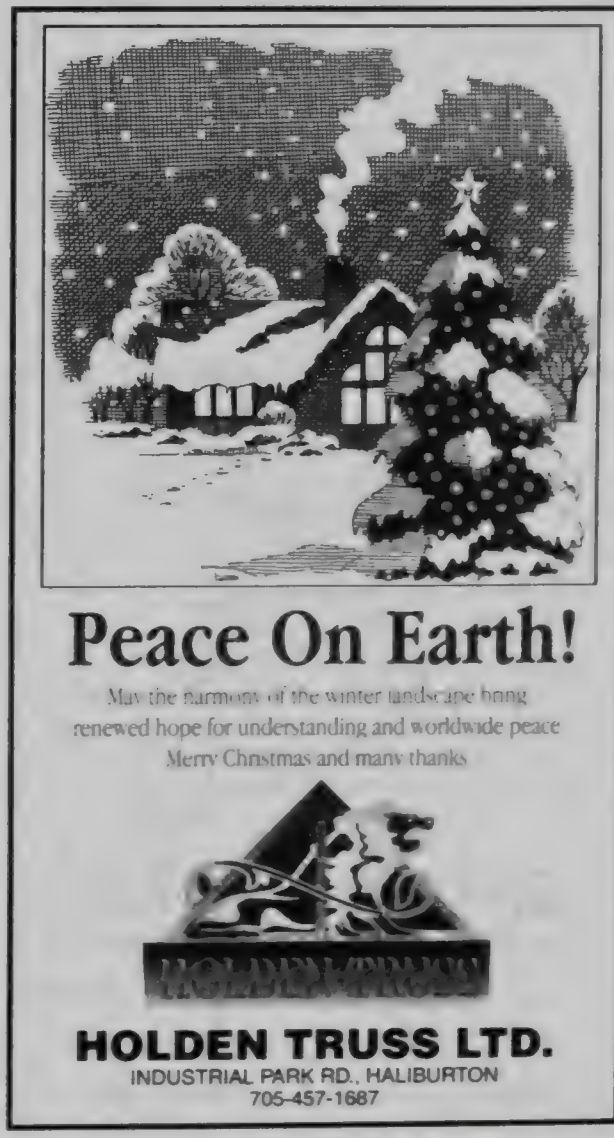
Judy & Len
The Highlands Motel



Tis the Season

It's such a treat to be able to extend our sincere thanks for your business over the past year. Our very warmest wishes to you all. May you have a truly joyful holiday season.

Paul & staff of
PAUL WILSON SURVEYING LTD.



Peace On Earth!

May the harmony of the winter landscape bring renewed hope for understanding and worldwide peace
Merry Christmas and many thanks

HOLDEN TRUSS LTD.
INDUSTRIAL PARK RD., HALIBURTON
705-457-1687

A VALENTINE CHRISTMAS

In 1968, Mom Valentine's generosity reached out and touched a leper colony in Uganda

By Matthew Walls

It was Mom Valentine's idea. In 1968, Mom's son, Bill, was living with his wife Sandy in Lira, Uganda, where they taught at a college that served northern Uganda's villages, villages so poor they sent one child to the regional school, who when finished would spend the rest of his life paying the village back.

On weekends Bill and Sandy volunteered at a leper colony run by Italian nuns and funded, in part, by a Montreal Catholic diocese. A young German doctor and a Scottish nurse, Jean Stoddard, who was the district nurse, served the colony's medical needs.

Jean had asked Bill to film life in the colony for the nuns' Leper Relief Agency, which wanted to make a film to solicit donations. Bill had learned to film with his Zeiss Icon, bought for \$150 at a pawn shop in Toronto before he left Canada for his two years in Uganda. Jean would lend her film camera for Bill to use. They felt they couldn't refuse.

"Well she was just like a mother," Bill says. "You could hardly disobey her."

Like the other volunteers they met, Jean was dedicated to the people she served.

The lepers then lived in isolation deep in the bush, and were ostracized by the community: lepers had to carry a bell to signal their approach to others.

Sandy: "It was terrible, because everyone would avoid them."

Please see page 16



Kids who lived in this Lira, Uganda, leper colony had never even seen a skipping rope before Bill Valentine's mother sent boxes of Christmas presents from Simpsons in Toronto.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

and best wishes in the New Year
from the staff & families
of

MISCIO
CONSTRUCTION
Haliburton



Here Comes Christmas!

We couldn't have come this far without the support of good friends like you. Merry Christmas and many thanks for helping us go the distance.

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The power to amaze yourself.™

MERRY CHRISTMAS & MANY THANKS

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Monday-Saturday
9:00am - 6:00pm

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The Village Court, Haliburton 705-457-5020



From page 16

Each weekend Bill and Sandy travelled from their home in Lira to the colony in their white Volkswagen, a 20-mile drive of "crummy roads" that took an hour and a half. Bill would film with his Zeiss camera while Sandy played with the children. She is startled by how little thought they gave to the disease: "Boy, we were foolish and young."

1968 was the couple's second Christmas in Uganda and, towards the end of that year, Mom Valentine had the idea to send her son and daughter-in-law presents for Christmas. Bill and Sandy, feeling inordinately well-off compared to their neighbours, asked her to send presents to the colony.

SANDY VALENTINE, on the left, with nurse Jean Stoddard and a sister with one of the Christmas boxes at the Alito Leper Centre, Uganda, 1968.

Many in the area where Bill and Sandy lived were Catholic and therefore celebrated Christmas. Without the money to buy the gifts Westerners expect at Christmas, the stores usually marked the holiday with a few decorations and the people with just a prayer.

Mom Valentine, however, changed that. She approached Eatons and offered to spend \$100 on toys if they would ship them. "Eatons," Bill says, "wanted nothing to do with the project. Simpsons said, 'We'll match it dollar for dollar and ship it there.'"

The toys were flown to Mombassa and from there went by train to Lira, Uganda, where Bill and Sandy lived in their small, iron-roofed house. The shipping cost, itself a sizable sum, was also picked up by Simpsons. Not a word of the company's contribution made it to any papers; it was a simple act of generosity that didn't trumpet itself.

Bill and Sandy decided not to tell the children the boxes were coming. Their own luggage had been delayed by months when they first flew to Africa, rerouted through Singapore and the Congo. Political instabilities and an underdeveloped transport system had delayed or lost many shipments.

"We didn't really think it would

Please see page 18

Merry Christmas

To all our fine customers:
We hope you enjoy a happy holiday season
filled with warmth and peace.
Our Best Wishes of the Season to everyone.



109 INDUSTRIAL RD.,
HALIBURTON • 457-2500
Ed, Lynn & Chris

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	Sheri Whiteway



Because we truly appreciate
your business, we want to
take this opportunity to thank
you for your patronage, and
extend our best wishes for a
happy holiday season and a
prosperous new year.



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

from George, Heidi and the staff at



**HALIBURTON
OUTDOOR
EQUIPMENT**



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The Staff of Pasta ta Pizza
wish you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

**Pasta
-ta-Pizza**

TRACEY & PAUL

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S

Please Note We Are Closed December 25, 26
And New Years Day



From page 17
work out."

In true Christmas fashion, the boxes arrived in time. The kids, Bill says, "just went nuts."

"Aw, they had nothing," Sandy echoes.

Hoops, skipping ropes, all kinds of balls, soccer balls. Nothing complicated, just things they could

do physically.

To the children, the gifts were not only things they didn't have; they were things they'd never seen. Sandy took the skipping ropes in hand to show the children how to use it. She did likewise with the hoops.

"The local people didn't have pee-all," Bill says. "Their absolute top ambition was to get a bicycle

Bill and Sandy, who would leave the country later the next year, before Idi Amin took over and the nuns and the inhabitants of the leper colony began their years of living in fear, left the colony with a parting gift: a small plastic Christmas tree.

In May of the next year, Sister Anna Pia, the lepers camp head sister, wrote a letter of thanks to Mom Valentine, which we print here:

*Lepers Camp Alito, Lira, Uganda
12th May, 1969*

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Valentine,

I have no words to thank you enough for the wonderful gifts we have received for our children.

It was a big day when I showed them all the beautiful toys and books.

Sister Stoddard too was here, and the day that Mr. [Bill] and Mrs. Valentine came to visit us on the train. They could see the joy of all the children – and their excitement and they took some films and pictures.

Again we have received two more parcels this morning.

Thank you, thank very very much again and again.

I hope to hear from you sometimes. I have my brother and his family there in Toronto. You might meet sometimes.

May God Bless you always and reward your kind generosity.

With very best wishes. Greetings and love.

Sincerely,

Sister Anne Pia

[Head Sister at Alito]

In December of 1968, boxes of toys from Simpsons left Toronto on a flight to Mombasa, Kenya, where they were put on a train for Uganda, to a leper colony run by Italian nuns deep in the bush.



BILL VALENTINE *with a sister at the Alito Leper Centre, in Uganda, 1968.*

and a boom box," which they'd play as they biked around.

The children were not cowed by their lack of material possessions, though. Many of them wore second-hand baseball T-shirts. "They had nothing but they were really proud of their old beat up baseball t-shirts."

If the boxes were the first Christmas gifts for the children, the magic of the holiday ran a bit longer than usual, thanks to the postal system. The children kept getting new boxes for the next several months.

Peace & Joy



May glad tidings
be yours this
holiday season.

from the Management & Staff

**RONNIE
VIEW
INN**

Season's Greetings



Wishing everyone
a Healthy and Happy
New Year!

Bob, Ines, Sue, Tracy, Lisa, Margot & Cheryl
Dr. R. Hindman,
Dental Office



BRYCE'S



**BRYCE'S
WINDSHIELD SERVICE**

*Season's Greetings
to all*

We Will Match The Competition

HALIBURTON 457-2099 MINDEN 286-3344



**N
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L**

Larry & Julie Moynes and the entire staff of Ridgewood Ford Sales would like to express our appreciation to all our customers and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



Season's Greetings

*Wishing you all a safe and
happy holiday season.*

PINCKARD • WYJAD Associates

Daniel Wyjad, Kelly Fleming,
Monika Hutton & Kellee Miscio



DECK THE HALLS

Did you know that glittered fresh fruit will last from one to three weeks? Read on for more decorating ideas!

Here are few ideas to make decking the halls a little easier and cheaper.

- Always buy shorter strands of tree lights. If a string goes out, it will be less noticeable, not to mention cheaper and easier to replace.

- Store lights on artificial trees. If you have an artificial tree, put lights on each section. After the holidays, take the sections apart and store separately with lights still in place. Next year's tree assembly will be a snap!

- Wrap gifts as you go along. Set up a wrapping station in an out-of-the-way place. Keep gifts nearby in a laundry basket and wrap one or two when you have a few spare minutes.

- Make inexpensive decorations with a can of gold paint. Spray paint baskets, candles, nuts, leaves, flower pots or other objects and arrange them into a display. For example, a basket of gold nuts and pine cones looks elegant and costs pennies.

- **SPRAYING TIP:** Paint may not cover item completely after the first coat. Be patient and spray lightly

several times to avoid drips.

- A little glitter and glue can turn real or plastic fruit into a sparkling centre piece. Lightly rub fruit with a small piece of wax paper dipped in

glue. Roll gently in glitter and set aside on newspaper or wax paper to dry overnight. A pint of glue and a medium size carton of glitter will cover about a dozen pieces of fruit.



- Glittered fresh fruit will last from one to three weeks. Of course, it's not edible.

- Ice cream cone ornaments are fun to make with kids. Just let them glue plain Christmas balls on to real ice cream cones. Satin covered styrofoam balls are safer for children to work with.

- Make teddy bear garland by tracing a teddy bear cookie cutter on a strip of grocery bag folded "paper doll fashion." Unfold the garland and draw faces and sweaters on each bear with colored markers. It's fun to write the name of each family member on the bears. Use it to trim the tree.

- Make a candy garland by stapling together wrapped hard candies. Drape it on the tree or wrap it around pine garland for added color.

- Make a colorful gumdrop tree with a styrofoam cone, toothpicks and gumdrops. Break toothpicks in half. With a gumdrops secured to one end, poke the toothpicks into the cone. Even very little children can help with this.

- Let little ones string colorful life-savers on ribbon. Tie a bow and hang it on the tree.

"Behold, the Lamb of God."

John 1:29

May the light of love and joy shine on you and your family throughout the year.
God bless you.



**HALIBURTON
VETERINARY SERVICES**
Dr. Laurie Brown & Staff

Thank you to all of our customers and friends that we have had the pleasure to meet over the last 6 months.

All the best for the holiday season and a prosperous 2004.

Ed, Sue & all the Staff at



HOPE YOUR SEASON IS TREE-MENDOUS!

We're truly grateful for your friendship and support.

**COUNTY AUTO REPAIR
& RADIATOR SERVICE**

HALIBURTON
457-1411

Bob, Dianne,
James, Mike,
Dennis, John
& Families



Thank You
For Your
Heartwarming
Patronage



Best wishes for a safe
and happy holiday!

From everyone at
BOWES & COCKS LIMITED,
Realtor
Haliburton & Wilberforce



JINGLE, BABY, JINGLE

Even the full moon couldn't compete with the Vegas-style brilliance of the entries in the Haliburton Home Hardware/Echo lights contest!



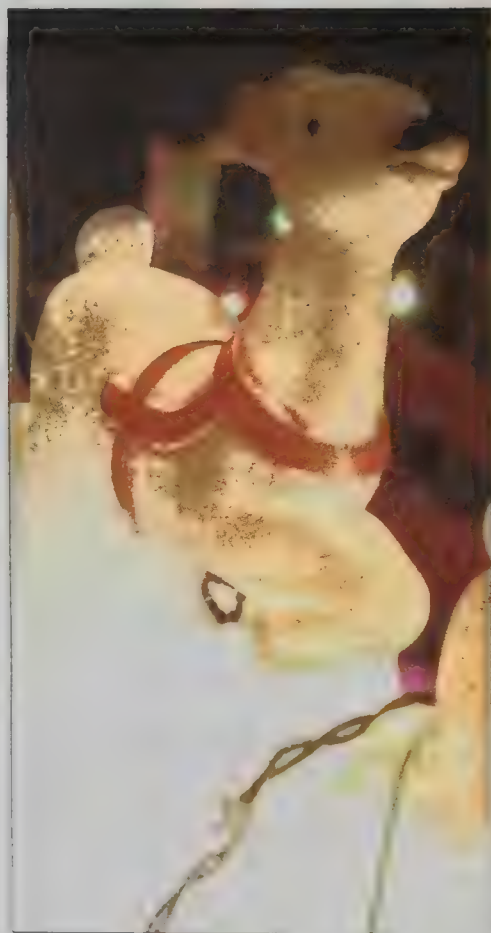
A study in white: Doug and Donna King's house on Blairhampton Road showed colour isn't the be-all and end-all of Christmas decorating.



Third-prize winner: The Klochhoff family of Kushog Lake Road had a panopoly of giant "balloon-style" critters in their front yard.



Pat and Tom Marshall's house sits high atop a hill where carollers sing (above), reindeer wander and an inviting bench cozies up under a tree festooned with white lights.



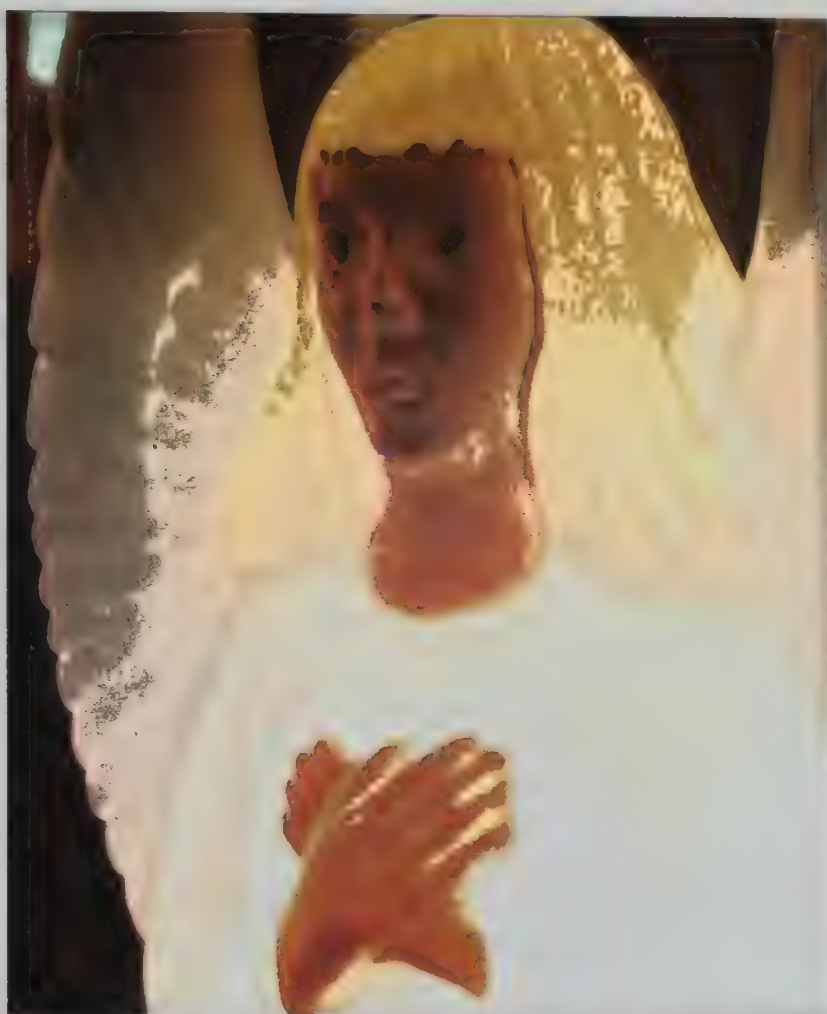
Last year's winners, Joe Rivers and Gwen Cox, had an excellent entry again this year. Their home on Deep Bay Road has all sorts of different decorations, including this reindeer, above, and more reindeer, below.



First prize: Ruth and Larry Strong outdid themselves this year with their entry on the Essonville Line near Wilberforce. Ruth did a lot of sewing for all the elves and other characters romping around her front lawn while Larry did the building — he even built this stepladder!



Judges spent two nights visiting the entries in this year's contest. On the first night, Monday December 8, there was a beautiful full moon lighting their way. At the home of Joe Rivers and Gwen Cox, a miniature house with miniature reindeer looked real under the brilliant moon.



Angels watch over Audrey Reynold's front yard on Heming Road, Minden



Santa takes off from the Rivers Cox homestead in Minden



Third prize: this picture doesn't do justice to the Mayhen family of Paradise Cove Rd



Allsaw Pentecostal Church (between Haliburton and Minden) is certainly well-dressed for the Christmas season. This charming tobogganer greeted the judges as they went through the front door. Inside, they were charmed by beautiful lights, Christmas carols and a crock pot full of delicious hot cider. A special thanks to the Allsaw congregation for this warm welcome

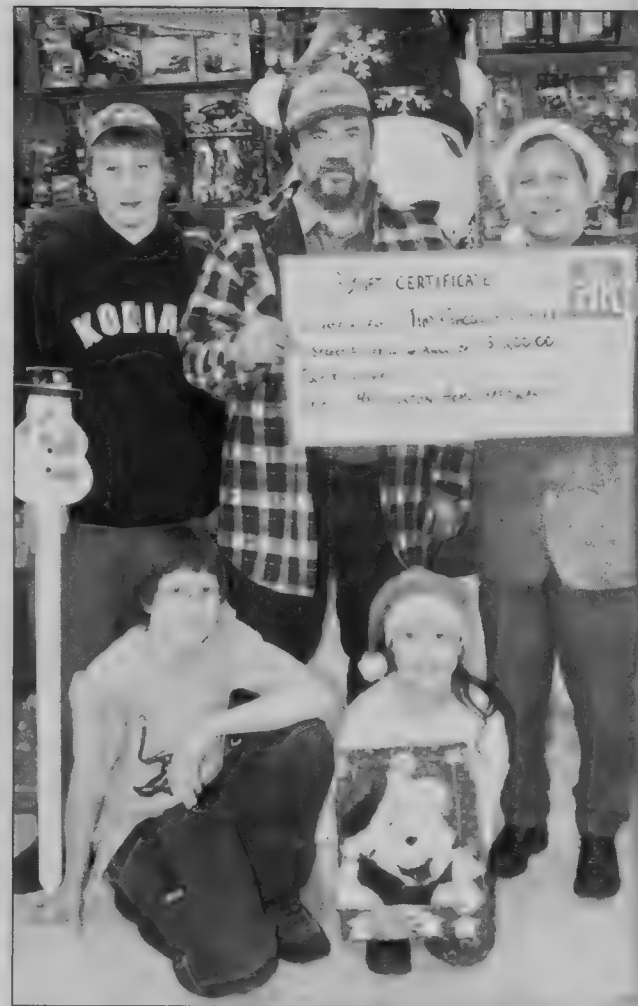


The blue angels in this lovely angel flutter back and forth at the home of Marlene Chatterton, corner of Highway 6-8 and Elephant Lake Road (next to the closed Shell station)



AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Ruth and Barry Strong of Vinegar Hill 'strong-arm' another first prize in this year's Haliburton Home Hardware/Haliburton County Echo Christmas Lights contest



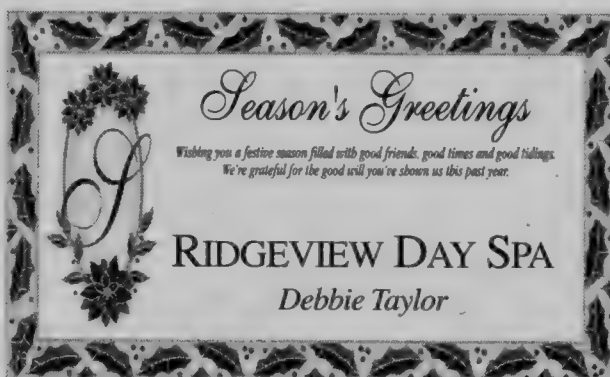
CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners in this year's Haliburton Home Hardware/Haliburton County Echo Christmas Lights contest. At left, Barry and Ruth Strong accept a \$400 gift certificate from Home Hardware owner Ray Langdon. At right, the Mayhew family (minus mom Jackie,

who had to work) accept a \$200 gift certificate from Ray. That's dad Tim with oldest son Josh, and younger kids Luke and Jillian in front. Third prize, subscriptions to the Echo and the Minden Times, was won by Mike, Julie, Emma, Courtney, Samuel and Nicholas Klockhoff. Way to go, everyone!



With warm wishes for a joyous Christmas to all the people we've had the pleasure to serve this year. Your friendship has meant a lot to us.

**Highlands
Accounting**



Season's Greetings

You, our loyal customers, are the secret to our success. Thank you for doing business with us again this year. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2003.

**G. Rowden
CONSTRUCTION**



Season's Greetings



*Barry and Kendra
and the families of*

**BLAIR
Sand & Gravel**

Have a Cozy Christmas



Relax and enjoy the holidays this year surrounded by all the joys that this season has to offer.

We really appreciated your patronage this past year, and hope to be of service to you again in the future.

RIVERVIEW



Management & Staff at Riverview Furniture
Minden Custom Upholstery & Colour Your World
Main Street, Minden

It's A Winter Wonderland

May you and every member of your family tree, Enjoy a season of joy and serenity.

Merry Christmas.

Greg, Donna
and Cole



**MINDEN HILLS
LANDSCAPING &
RENTAL**





CHRISTMAS TOUR

Take time this busy holiday season to pack everyone in the family car and see all the entries in the 2003 Haliburton Home Hardware/Haliburton County Echo Christmas Lights contest. Don't forget cookies and hot chocolate!

Photos, story by Cathy Olliffe

Once again the people of Haliburton County have outdone themselves in the Christmas decorating department.

This year's Christmas Lights contest, sponsored by Haliburton Home Hardware and the Haliburton County Echo, once again proves that, when it comes to lighting up the night sky, Highlanders rock!

First prize, a \$400 gift certificate for Haliburton Home Hardware, was won by Ruth and Larry Strong who consistently make the Essonville Line the talk of the town.

They won this contest two years ago and, while judges are reluctant to choose the same people more than once, the Strong's were simply unbeatable. Their homemade touches are what won the judges over. New this year is a quaint old couple (sewn by Ruth) cozied up in a horse-drawn sleigh (made by Larry). Also new is a pair of elves climbing decorating a Christmas tree. Larry went so far as making a stepladder for one of the elves from scratch. He could have used an existing ladder or bought one but, no, he built an elf-sized one! Unfortunately, it's not big enough or safe enough to be used by Larry himself. Still, it was so much work, Larry

says, "It would have taken me as much time to build a real one."

A visit to the Strong's house is certainly in order. As well as the beautiful yard, you'll be impressed by the Christmas carols.

Tim and Jackie Mayhew and family also have Christmas carols playing at their home, which won second prize in this year's contest (a \$200 gift certificate for Haliburton Home Hardware).

The Mayhews also are avid decorators, covering just about every part of their home and yard on Paradise Cove Road (east of Haliburton) with Christmas stuff: a Nativity scene, Santas, reindeers, snowmen – you name it and you'll probably see it at the Mayhew's!

Third prize is a little different than the first and second prize winners. The Klockhoff family of Kushog Lake Road filled their front yard with all sorts of those newish air-filled figures. Lots of people have one or two of these critters but the Klockhoffs have just about a bazillion! The cumulative effect has quite an impact on little kids who enjoy picking out their favourites.

Julie Klockhoff says, "You really shouldn't miss it for it's the only house lit up like the North Pole, as my husband tells me."

All our winners tell us they like to see where all the other entrants live. So, without further adieu, here they are!

Marlene Chatterton, Highway 648 &

Elephant Lake Rd. next to the closed Shell station, Harcourt.

Jack and Marlene Watson, 2716 Hwy. 648, 2.7 km from the fire hall in Wilberforce.

Patricia Simiana and Gwen Saunders, Hwy. 648 Wilberforce, five houses south of the Esso.

Larry and Ruth Strong, 1465 Essonville Line between Wilberforce and Hwy. 118.

Sheldon and Kelly Stevenson, 4311 Buckhorn Road.

Mayhew family, 1037 Paradise Cove Rd., 7 km east of Haliburton on Hwy. 118.

John Parish, Beechwood Drive (take Dover Spring Road off of Highway 118, east of Haliburton and then turn right on Beechwood).

Jim and Marilyn Frost, Down Home B&B, Maple Ave. across from the Dysart Municipal Office.

Bonnie Roe, 1477 Ritchie Falls Road, Lochlin (take County Road 1 out of Haliburton, turn left on Ritchie Falls Road).

Art and Margaret Latimer, 1181 Peninsula Drive (take Highway 121 out of Haliburton, turn left on Peninsula).

Allsaw Pentecostal Church, Allsaw flats on Highway 121 between Haliburton and Minden.

Ely Fairey, Highway 35 in Minden, third house down from Granny's Fish & Chips.

Audrey Reynolds, Fleming Road,

Minden. Drive north on Bobcaygeon Road, Fleming is across from the fairgrounds.

Joe Rivers and Gwen Cox, Minden. Go down Deep Bay Road about two miles to Tennyson Road. First house on right.

Doug and Donna King, first house on Blairhampton Road when you turn off Highway 35 just south of Carnarvon.

Julie Klockhoff, Kushog Lake Road. Take Hwy. 118 west of Carnarvon. Turn right on Kushog Lake Road; when you come to the 'Y' stay left.

Alvin and Marjorie Cowen, 1401 North Shore Road. Take Hwy. 35 north of Carnarvon, turn left on North Shore.

Bruce and Viola Cook, Dawson Road. Turn left off North Shore Road onto Dawson. House is on the left.

Valerie Leahy and family, corner of County Road 6 & 7 in West Guilford. White house across from church.

Ruth, Brad, Anne and Kevin Bryant, West Guilford. Go to the West Guilford store, house is the second on the right going towards Kennisis.

Pat and Tom Marshall, Hwy 118 between West Guilford and Carnarvon. Second driveway west of Maple Lake Live Bait.

Ron and Marlene Robinson, Hwy. 118 between West Guilford and Carnarvon. From West Guilford, go past St. Peter's Anglican Church Rd., next turn on left is Redners Road, first house on the left.

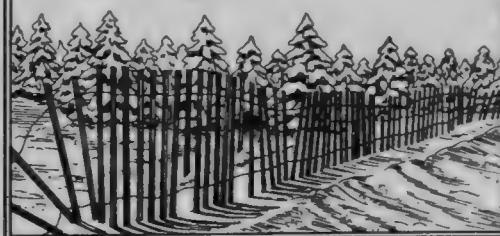
Season's Greetings

MAY THE PEACE AND JOY
OF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON REMAIN
WITH YOU THROUGHOUT
THE COMING YEAR.

Gord & Donna Monk
LONS MEMORIALS



Seasons Greetings



Thank you
for putting
your trust
in us

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

WILEY REAL ESTATE
MINDEN • DORSET



We've Pulled Over...

To wish you the happiest holidays ever.
Drive safely, and thanks for steering in our direction.

To all our valued customers & friends we would like to
thank you for your patronage and wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a great 2004.

MACINNES MOTOR WORKS
Carole, Gus and families

May Nature's Quiet Moments

Surround You

This Holiday Season.



Merry Christmas from

Stephen, Patricia, Cody & Riley Tomiuck
& Jake "The Greeter"

**Cottage Country Log Cabin
Trading Company Ltd.**

County Road 7 (Just Off Hwy. 118) West Guilford

705-754-2285

CHRISTMAS IN HONG KONG

Wayne and Faye had such a good time that they had absolutely no time to be homesick

By Wayne Henderson

There are many differences between Hong Kong and Minden but the most obvious difference today is the weather. It is short sleeve weather. Most days are sunny and warm (22 degrees). The nights have been windy with a definite chill in the air. The pool at our apartment finally closed on November 30th.

Some people were disappointed. I guess these ones have never tried swimming in Halls Lake.

The Christmas season is in full swing here. All of Hong Kong is involved, especially the HK Tourist Board, businesses and many Chinese residents. All tourist promotional material has their logo catch phrase "HONG KONG - LIVE IT. LOVE IT!" Even the huge Christmas tree in Statue Square.

The recent Hong Kong WinterFest Activities Guide has everything happening for the Christmas season through to the first week in January, 2004. There are food festivals and harbour light and music festivals. Of course, shopping is always a fea-

ture. Post SARS Hong Kong is bouncing back. To see the decorations, you'd never imagine there'd been any recession.

But what can I actually see? From the Kowloon side of Victoria Harbour, aside from the glittering lights from all the office buildings, there are Christmas light designs on six of them, which are huge (40 stories high and 50 metres wide) and all are very impressive. The content and colour of their pictures are changing constantly. I can see Santa, the Reindeer, Christmas trees, Ornaments and the ever constant "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year - 2004."

After a short Star ferry ride to Central, I had to walk along Jingle Bells Boulevard. Here I filled out a Christmas wish card and hung it from one of the hundreds of silver bells. Their ringing reminded me of sleigh bells. Thousands of families were enjoying this fun activity. Next came the towering Christmas Wishing Tree in Statue Square with its dazzling display of lights. Cameras were flashing as tourists, especially from mainland China, took pictures of the trees and lights. It's not what they're used to at all.

Please see page 25



Above, Santa and his reindeer liven up the city square in Hong Kong. Below, there may not be any snow in Hong Kong but the trees sure are pretty.



In memory of our dear friend Annie

PEACE TO ALL BEINGS

May enemies find themselves together as friends.
May we all learn to accept differences in each other.
May this blessed season bring understanding between those both like and unlike each other.
May you all embrace the true spirit of the season.

*All the Best
for the
Holiday
Season*

**Danielle's
SALON & DAY SPA**
457-9029

People Everywhere
Share The Dream
Of Peace

This special season, we join with all faiths to pray that the world continues on its way toward realizing that dream.

Happy Holiday
Thank you for your continued support.
Gord & Lee

**HALIBURTON & MINDEN
HEARING SERVICE**

Just in the "nick" of time, we're sending our regards to the many folks both far and near, whom we've had the privilege of doing business with this year.

**BEST
WISHES
ARE ON
THE WAY**

The Staff & Families of
CHURKO ELECTRIC

Hope your holiday delivers an abundance of joy. Thanks!

*Share
The Faith*

May you and your loved ones find inspiration as we celebrate the blessings of this wondrous season.

from the staff at
**WRD COTTAGE
RENTAL**
www.ontariocottagerental.com



From page 24

Music was playing everywhere throughout the square. It was a fantastic feeling being apart of this.

Stores are brimming with decorations and gift ideas. Even the international airport has natural Christmas trees from Vancouver colorfully decorated.

When shopping for any Christmas items, I tend to stay away from the malls and visit the numerous markets. It is very interesting as I try to find that elusive, unique Christmas gift or decoration. As most decorations are now made in China, there is an abundance of choice.

But what did I actually buy for gifts in Hong Kong. Only if you promise to keep this a secret, promise!! I have bought clothes, an Indigo print wall hanging, books on Asia, fiction and non fiction, small silk kites of a dragon and butterfly, clay animal whistles crafted to our Chinese zodiac signs, a porcelain tea set with blue Chinese designs, Buddha bells, chocolate, a flashing Santa hat, Hong Kong and Asia calendars, fair trade coffee from India and Thailand, incense and Chinese beer. There is no shortage of things to buy at every price range. My list is quite different from the local "tycoons."

If you are willing to participate, there are many activities for foreigners. At our apartment complex, people from England, Australia, New Zealand and Canada had an early Christmas gathering for those going back home. On the 25th, a luncheon has been planned for those who are staying in Hong Kong. It should be a very busy season for us, no time to be

homesick.

My daughter Emily and son James will be visiting us for Christmas. We haven't seen them since the summer. Sometimes it takes an unusual place for a family Christmas. This year it is Hong Kong.

My Christmas Wish for you and all Highlands residents is "May it be safe and happy with bellies full of turkey and good cheer."

— Wayne Henderson is the former owner of the Storeroom natural food store in Minden. He and his wife Faye Maddock, a teacher at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, are spending the year in Hong Kong.

IRONY AT ITS FINEST:

*in the foreground is a
palm tree; in the main
part of the photo is a
giant fake Christmas
tree covered in
ornaments.*



The Reason for the Season

We invite you to visit one of our Christian churches this Christmas

St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton:

Dec 24: 3:30 p.m., Children Friendly Christmas
Communion with the Haliburton Silver Flutes
7:00 p.m., Carol Singing
7:30 p.m., Christmas Communion

Dec 28: 7:30 a.m., Service of Lessons & Carols

Dec 31: 11:00 a.m., Service of Carols & Readings

St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Wilberforce

Dec. 25: 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Minden

Dec 24: 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

St. James Anglican Church, Kinmount

Dec. 24: 9:00 p.m. Holy Communion

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Maple Lake, 286-2451

Dec 25: 10:00 a.m. Family Christmas Communion

St. John's Anglican Church, Irondale, 286-2541

Dec 24: 7:00 p.m. Family Service w/ carols

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Haliburton

Dec 24: 6:30 p.m. Hymn Sing,
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Lakeside Baptist Church

Dec. 24: 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Haliburton United Church

Dec. 24: 7:00 pm Christmas Eve, Haliburton
Communion will be served

Minden United Church, Minden

Dec. 24: 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Maple Lake United Church, Maple Lake

Dec. 24: 9:00pm Christmas Eve Service
Communion

This feature is sponsored by:

HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME

Providing a service that respects your wishes

HWY 118, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO 457-9209

OWNED & OPERATED BY DWAIN & LORI LLOYD





CHRISTMAS COWBOY

Not all elves have pointy ears and green outfits. Sometimes they wear cowboy hats as they deliver Christmas cards and lots of Christmas cheer.



By Martha Perkins

Elves in Sheila Patsolas eyes don't have to wear green or be under four feet tall or have particularly pointed ears. In fact, she is quite certain she has already met one and he's most often seen wearing a cowboy hat.

Patsolas splits her time between Canada and Greece. Recently she returned home to Tory Hill to visit her parents, Arnold and Shirley Stamp. Astounded by her elf's generosity and cheerful Christmas spirit, Patsolas wrote the following short tribute to him.

"We think Haliburton County has found their own real life 'elf.' Not the movie version one, but one of our own, who goes by the name of 'Cowboy.'"

"A man in his 70s with wobbly legs, who walks or hitchhikes throughout Haliburton, Minden and West Guilford delivering Christmas cards to all walks of life, bringing cheer to those who might not have any at this time of year.

"From two sister elves who helped to sign his signature 'Cowboy' on 400 or more cards (not counting hundreds he has done on his own) we wish you a very merry Christmas and good health in all the New Years to come as you continue your walk for Christmas cheer. You are a true elf."

Cowboy's real name is Gerald Marshall. Maureen O'Hara, Community Living's executive director, says Marshall has done an amazing job with his personal Christmas card campaign and is an amazing person.



Season's Greetings



To the many fine citizens of this community, we'd like to offer our own best wishes and heartfelt appreciation for making us feel a part of it all.

We look forward to your continued support.



HALIBURTON LUMBER & ENTERPRISES LTD.

Gary Bailey
Ian Bailey
Bryan Barry
Grenville Barry
Tyler Boice
Lloyd Bull
Josh Burk

Jeff Carpenter
Mike Carpenter
Shawn Deterling
Ken Goodall
Don Goodine
Ken Griffin
Adam Henry

Floyd Henry
Ken Henry
Leo Henry
Greg Hewitt
Lorne Hodgson
Courtney Horsley
Steve Kirkpatrick

Brad Manning
Chris Mawbey
Dave Peacock
Terry Lloyd
Elmo Lymburner
Wade MacInnes
Keith Robertson

Arlene Scheffee
Greg Scheffee
Tony Scheffee
Matt Selbie
Cliff Smith
Rick Stamp
Bill Tripp

Stan Tripp
Stan Watt
Lois Whittaker
Brett Wilson
Jeff Wilson
John Wilson
Jim Scheffee

Our Christmas Wish To You & Your Families



We like to give credit where credit is due.
So the first order of business
is giving special thanks to you.
You've shown us your friendship
in so many ways.
Now it's our turn to wish you
The very happiest of holidays!

From the staff at
STAN'S SHELL
Haliburton, Ontario

Christmas Greetings

From everyone at the Echo!



YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE

Candy Youngdale wrote 'You Have To Believe,' a fanciful poem about a boy named Jimmy McKibbitt, a boy nearly eight, who knew Christmas was coming and just couldn't wait. Sound like anyone you might know?

By Candy Youngdale
Photography, Darren Lum

Jimmy McKibbitt, a boy nearly eight, Knew Christmas was coming and he couldn't wait.

The wonder, the thrill, the joy of the season Was ruined by Jack, and all for no reason.

Jack told him that day it all was untrue. He said, "I don't believe, and neither should you."

Jimmy cried out, "You're wrong. It's a lie!" "You're wrong and I'll prove it," said he with a cry.

He had his agenda, his purpose in mind. So off in the darkness, some proof he would find.

He plodded and pushed his way through the snow to nowhere specific, no set place to go.

He looked and he hunted but to no avail, looking behind he saw only his trail.

His mind wandered back to the conversation they'd had. Was it really all true or was Jack just plain bad?

Jack had told him a thought, one that was new. Parents, they fib, that's just what they



Candy Youngdale cozies up to the fireplace and reads her son the poem she wrote about a boy named Jimmy McKibbitt

do.

They tell you it's so, when really it's not. Stories they told that Jimmy had bought.

Off to the side he caught just a sight, a twinkling glimpse reflecting the light.

His eyes filled with wonder, his heart filled with joy, as utter amazement befuddled this boy.

He moved a bit closer and kept his gaze locked. He brushed off the snow, just sat there

and gawked.

He gripped it so tight. He knew what he had. Could there ever have been a luckier lad?

Please see page 28

Rexall

Joy to all!

It's a real pleasure to have this opportunity to extend our best wishes to our many good friends and patrons during the holiday season... we appreciate your loyalty. **Merry Christmas!**

Pharmacist - Manager - Margaret Collin
Manager - Janice Chambers
Carol Thompson, Kelly Power,
Bev Sisson, Melanie Howitt,
Shirley Whetstone, Beth Lee,
Laurie Burkitt, Krystal English, Natalia Rico,
Sarah Johnson, Brianna Elder

Highland Street, Haliburton
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We join our clients and friends in hope for a kinder world, understanding and world peace Merry Christmas and many thanks.

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After a hard day at work... Slip into something comfortable.



Best Wishes This Holiday Season From The Staff & Families at

THE PUMP SHOP
Haliburton



From page 27

Black leather strapping worn thin through all time, with six silver bells stitched in a very straight line.

The treasure he held, surely made by an elf, perhaps from the harness of Rudolf himself.

Clutched in his hand, he swung it around. The whimsical jingle made such a cool sound.

The prize of all prizes he would most certainly share. Some proof that Santa had really been there.

For Jack, who had sworn that Santa was fake. A tall tale of parents, such schemes they did bake.

A man dressed in red with a long flowing beard. Eight reindeer that fly did seem a bit weird.

Tiny elves dressed in bright emerald green, A sight, he dare say, that he'd never seen.

But believe it he must, believe it he might, 'cause it happened to him on that very night.

In the distance he caught just a glimpse of a sled, shiny chrome gleaming, bright fire engine red.

The man belted in looked just as he'd heard. Jimmy stood speechless, not even one word.



Santa swooped down beside and smiled a wide grin. He held out his hand and helped Jimmy in.

"For returning my bells I shall give you a ride." Jimmy's eyes filled with tears. His heart beamed with pride.

The belt Santa took and pulled it quite tight, to hold Jimmy snug as they took off in flight.

They soared through the trees and sped past the stars, over the top of a house with three big blue cars.

In a flash, in an instant, it was over and done. A bit chilly and quick, but man was it fun!!

A boy with a dream, a dream that came true. A memory to cherish his entire life through.

"Thank-you Santa! I'm sure glad that we met! I'm sure glad to know you! I sure won't forget!"

"Thank-you my boy. My bells I have missed." His nose red and shiny, by the wind it was kissed.

They hugged and they smiled. For Jimmy it's clear, that Santa is real and so are the reindeer.

The team with their hooves a click they did make, as the sled lifted off on its journey to take.

Jimmy held his head high and watched in delight, as Santa he waved and flew into the night.

It didn't really matter what Jack had to say. Jimmy would never forget that delightful day.

'Cause Santa was there on that Christmas Eve. He knew the truth, you have to believe!!!

—Candy Youngdale lives in Haliburton and wrote this fun story for her family. She is a member of the Haliburton Highlands Writers and Editors Network and the Minden Writer's Circle.

Merry Christmas

There's no time like the Yuletide to express our gratitude to each and every one of you, along with our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Saturday December 20 to Tuesday December 23
Wednesday December 24
Christmas Day and Boxing Day
Saturday December 27 to Tuesday December 30
Wednesday December 31
New Years Day

7am - 9pm
7am - 5pm
CLOSED
7am - 9pm
7am - 5pm
CLOSED

From the Staff
and Management
of

HALIBURTON
IGA

Hometown Proud

The First Noel

May you and your loved ones enjoy a season of hope and enlightenment, and may we all join together in praying for peace on earth this Christmas.



Andy, Mary & Gail

KITCHENS
Interiors

Highland St., Haliburton

CHRISTMAS IN CARNARVON

Yearly Christmas gathering described as 'pot-luck of the silly, the witty and the godly'

By Matthew Walls

From dancing babushkas and soliloquizing maids to tongue-in-cheek jokes and solemn religious songs, the ladies' Christmas special was a pot-luck of the silly, the witty and the godly.

Thirteen churches from the Minden and Haliburton area sent troupes of singers, actors and storytellers to Christmas in Carnarvon, hosted by the "ladies of Zion United." The ladies had baked for the occasion endless batches of sweets and poured a steady stream of tea till evening's end.

Host Eleanor Hamilton threaded together the evening's slapdash schedule of acts with some irreverent humour and observations gained as a host mother for several Africans from the Canada World Youth program.

She had many in the audience slapping tables and wheezing for breath - "Tell us another one El."

A trio of singers from Zion United led off the evening with two songs slyly adapted for Christmas, one of whose refrains winked, "Frosty, Frosty good."

Ruth Carter from West Guilford Baptist eagerly took up the next act, and told a story of a Christmas scrooge who learned, from his efforts to herd a freezing covey of birds into a barn, the true meaning of Jesus



Singers ham it up at Zion United Church's annual and much-anticipated shin-dig, Christmas in Carnarvon.

Christ's birth.

Shalom by the Lake's Melissa Guyatt, by far the youngest in the crowd at 16, hushed the audience - now on seconds - with two sobering songs on her keyboard piano.

A foursome from St. Paul's, who promised their dance would replicate the spirit if not the sprightliness of

their grandchildren, hopped about on stage to a pop song, led by the steel-toed clomp of Barb Trocewicz. Their dance instructor couldn't join them for the act, which prompted the MC to wonder, having seen the dance, if the instructor had perhaps missed the occasion to keep her identity secret.

Two poems were read aloud by Shirley Howe from the Minden United Church, the first a ditty called 'When I was a Little Old Lady' that playfully mocked their sometimes ill-mannered and often messier younger generation(s).

Another foursome, this from the Minden Bible Church, read a Christmas-themed poem warning of the dangers of the holiday's shop-till-you-drop custom.

The Lochlin Little Lassies, dressed in nightgowns and bonnets, then performed their rhyming soliloquies whose clever turns of phrase held many waiting for the inevitable guffawing punchline.

Ingoldsby United's ensemble provided a bit of slapstick with their enactment of the song, 'I'm Getting Nuttin' For Christmas.'

St. George's Eleanor Cooper and her sister Kathleen Owens, then played a tumbling, bouncy duet on the piano, the Santa Christmas Ride.

The evening ended, not when the sweets ran out, for they were never exhausted (even the absent would later get a plate full of date squares and coconut concoctions), but with two singing benedictions. The first was led by the ladies from Eagle Lake Community Church, and the closing one from the Messiah Choir, with all present standing together, hands clasped and slightly swaying.

- Mathew Walls is a reporter at the Minden Times.

Over The River And
Through The Woods...

*We'd go the distance to say,
"Merry Christmas and many thanks!"*

From all of us at
Joe Voicey

ON THE LEVEL
CONTRACTING

Alzheimer Society

PETERBOROUGH & AREA

The Alzheimer Society of Peterborough and Area wants to thank all of our loyal volunteers and donors in Haliburton County who contributed in 2003 to help us in so many ways with our work - we couldn't do it without you!

All the best of the Holiday Season.

WISHING YOU

PEACE, LOVE, AND

JOY

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10-14

FROM
OUR FAMILY
TO YOURS

We sincerely thank you for your faithful patronage in the past year, and ask that you take time this holiday season to give thanks for the love of family and friends and to count your blessings. Our best wishes for a glorious new year.

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THANKS!

Season's
Greetings

From the Office of
Dr. Smolen
& staff

Season's Greetings

*Wishing you tidings of comfort and joy this holiday season.
Thank you for blessing us with your visits.*

Terry and Susan O'Shea
and "Belle"
of

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HOORAY FOR VOLUNTEERS!

In return for helping everyone else, Home Support volunteers are treated to dinner and a show



The Ladies Auxiliary were a blur, busy cooking, serving and cleaning for more than 100 honoured volunteers and guests at the annual Home Support Luncheon last week.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS Home Support honoured its volunteers for their many efforts over the course of the year with a luncheon held at the Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion last week. There were 150 people at the Legion. The luncheon was opened by remarks made by Home Support President Bob Mitchell. Also in attendance were the Red Hat Ladies, Haliburton chapter, and the Gentlemen of Song. The Ladies Auxiliary made and served the food at the event which was roasted ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, an assortment of vegetables.

"For Unto Us A Child Is Born"



Merry Christmas from

Sharp Electric

Del, Darlene, Ron, Gerald, Bill, Drew & Jamie

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CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25TH!
11am - 4pm**

The word is out and it's time to display our best wishes and gratitude to our loyal customers and friends. We really appreciate your support and hope you have the very best holiday season, ever!

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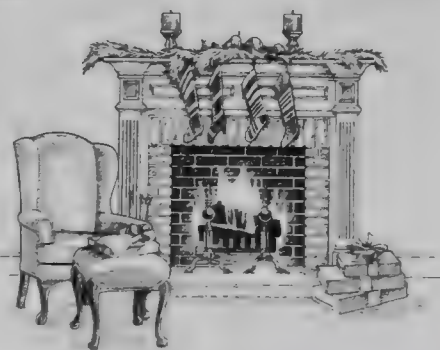
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF
THE WIGAMOG RESORT

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**THANK YOU
TO OUR ENTIRE STAFF**

FOR YOUR DRIVE & DEDICATION TO THE
BUSINESS AND DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL
CUSTOMER SERVICE!
YOU'RE #1



Our warmest greetings go out to you,
but please don't forget to open the flue!
(You never know who might drop in)

We're always proud to be of service
and thank you for your continued patronage.

from Staff & families of

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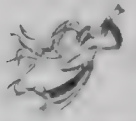


Best Wishes and Many Thanks
from the staff at

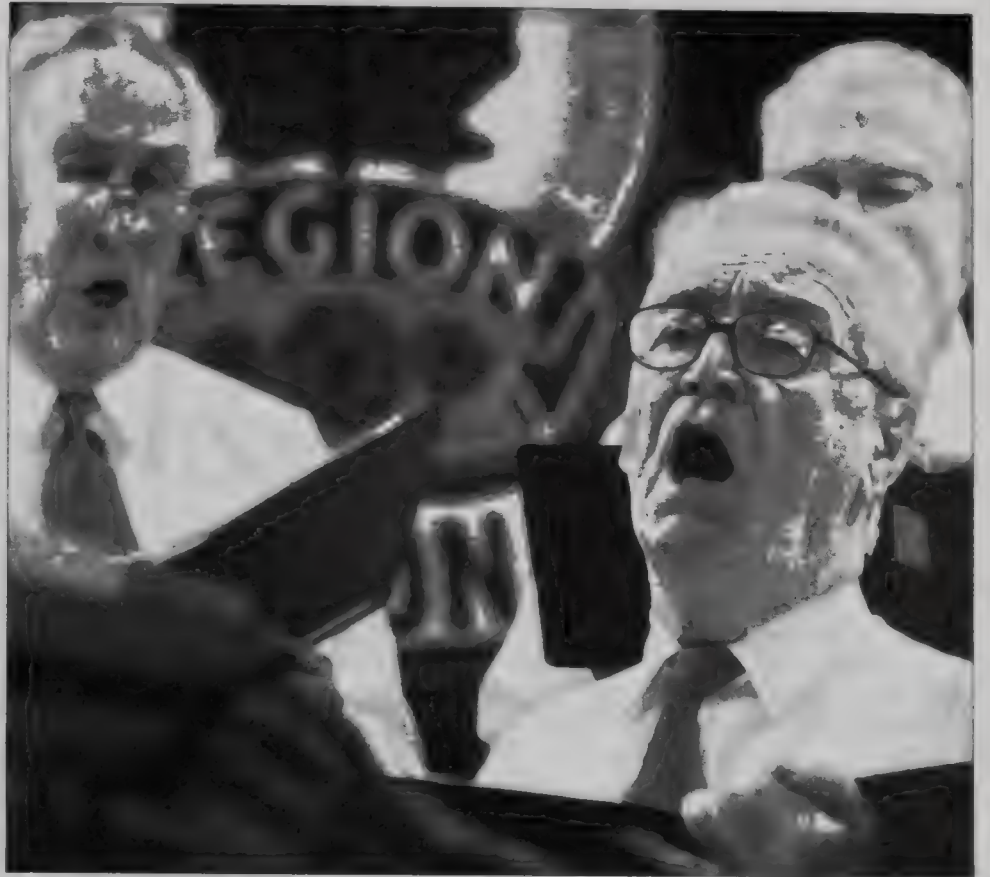
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HALIBURTON



Top: immediately following the lunch at the annual Home Support Luncheon Barb Mitchell, Rheta Jones, Jeanne Anthon and Roxanne Casey sang a few Christmas favourites. Right: members of the Gentlemen of Song sing Peace on Earth. Below: The Gentlemen of Song give a roaring rendition of Love & Joy.



Photos by Darren Lum

DECK THE LANES!
Hope you're bowled over by great surprises this Christmas!

from Everyone at
Carnarvon Bowl
Hwy. 35 & 118
Carnarvon

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
Opportunity's knocking so we'd like to say,
"Hope you enjoy a great holiday!"
And to our friends both far and near,
Please know you're always welcome here!

Haliburton
SEARS
Martin, Angela & Staff

The Spirit of the Season



The spirit of giving is upon us. May you always be offered the gift of love.
Dr. Rene Benoit, Terri & Peggy

Season's Greetings



We're happy to have this opportunity to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes to all of you at this joyous time of year and in the new year ahead.
Thank you!

THE MONK & CRAY FAMILIES

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

We're happy to have this opportunity to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes to all of you at this joyous time of year. Thanks!



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TALE OF TWO TRADITIONS

Jan and Suzanne Haedicke — his background is German and she hails from British Guyana — marry their very different Christmas traditions in one happy family celebration

Every family has its own Christmas traditions, usually inherited from their ancestors and common to their culture. Canada, home to immigrants from all over the world, is also home to many traditions.

In some instances, even a family will have more than one. Such is the case with Jan and Suzanne Haedicke, who run Halimar Resort and Restaurant.

Jan, who arrived in Haliburton from Germany with his parents in 1987, and Suzanne, who came from British Guyana in 1997, celebrate Christmas with a combination of their families' traditions — despite the fact they both work on Christmas day. We asked them what Christmas customs they observe to mark the holiday.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:

Jan Haedicke from Hamburg Germany, came to Haliburton in 1987.

Previous traditions involved focusing on family time. It started four Sundays before Christmas when the first candle is lit. The family sits together and enjoys the first Christmas cookies, and sings carols. The first small gift is given December 6th. Children clean and shine their shoe/boot, then place their shoe/boot on the outside of the window. If they have been good, a small gift appears, like a chocolate/candy. Each Sunday before Christmas this continues with the lighting of another candle and so on. During this time, the children are led to make gifts for their parents. Draw, paint, knit, etc.

Christmas Eve day, the father of the family goes and finds a real



Jan and Suzanne with his parents and their children.

Christmas tree, decorates it while the mother prepares a very simple German meal. No one is allowed to see the tree, it's locked in a room. Following the meal which consists of German sausage, potato salad & pickles, the father lights the real candles on the tree, rings the bell & the children gathered around the tree. Each child must say a short Christmas poem before receiving their gift. In the old days the gifts were not wrapped and in a big sack that Santa carries. Santa is usually the father, or the grand father and he asks if the children

have been good. If yes, they receive a gift, if not they receive a whip. (the children are not hit, instead of a toy, a whip is given).

The family then sings many Christmas carols, both in English & in German. Breaks were taken if more presents are to be opened, then a Christmas story was read, flutes played and then another gift. This continued until all gifts were open. The evening ended. If there was time, the family went to Church to join others in caroling.

Christmas day was spent enjoying their gifts and a more extrava-

gant meal was enjoyed as an early dinner. The meal consisted of cold, very rare roast beef, roasted duck and the normal additions. Followed by more caroling, guitar playing and more family time.

Christmas is very much for the children who truly believe in Santa, therefore children under 3 or 4. Santa comes through the woods to their home while they are asleep.

Suzanne Haedicke — from British Guyana, came to Toronto in 1976 and to Haliburton in 1997.

Previous traditions started one month before Christmas.

This involved taking the home apart. Moving the furniture around, taking down pictures from the wall, so that everything appears plain & out of place. Then five days later, it's all cleaned up and decorated with Christmas stuff.

We only used artificial trees, with lots of colored lights, this was put up very early in December. Gifts appeared without name tags all month. All the family meets at one home for Christmas day, it starts with a special meal in the morning. Consisting of fresh bread, meat-stew, garlic pork & garlic beef. The garlic pork & beef have been soaking in vinegar for a few days before Christmas. Following breakfast, gifts are exchanged and the rest of the day is spent preparing a huge Christmas dinner and spending time with the family.

Together, life is very busy, but we merge our traditions by starting with the December 6th small gift exchange. We spend lots of time with the family, and mostly carrying on with Suzanne's simple traditions.

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS"**

We echo their words, and add our sincere thanks to
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SANTA'S HOUSE

Photographer Darren Lum gets the scoop of a lifetime: he receives an invitation to visit Santa's house at the North Pole and photograph the famous jolly old elf and his very lovely sweetie-pie, Mrs. Claus. Darren says he peeked at Santa's list and most Haliburton kids have been good!





HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

And Franka is ready with all kinds of holiday treats — so get cooking!

by Franka Andriano

Christmas always evokes so much emotion and memory. It's always surprising to me how the holidays sneak up on us. I remember as a kid it felt like forever for Christmas to come and now as an adult it's a blink of an eye between Christmases.

It is such a joyous time of year even though it is a hectic time. Our family holidays were so busy, with trying to organize the group of us, getting the house decorated, the food bought and the presents wrapped.

Nowadays about 20 of us gather for Christmas and in our family Christmas Eve was the big event. For most Italians Christmas Eve is the big night. This is when the big celebration of family, food and church with Midnight Mass takes place.

In our family we follow the tradition of having 13 courses at dinner of which the entrees are fish. "The purpose of meatless dishes was due to the fact that the night prior to a religious feast was considered a vigil and meat represented the body of Christ. During this observance meat was not served," says Anthony Parante in The meaning of Christmas Eve. "The 13 courses represents the apostles and Jesus and the origin of the church."

We have always done this and when I asked my mother why she says, "It's tradition. My mother and grandmother followed this, so we do as well."

Anything could be a course, such as bread, but typically we would have baccala, shrimp, mussels, squid, salmon and other fish dishes. The possibilities were endless. Side dishes were of pasta, soups, vegetables and

salads of fennel, romaine and have course lots of fruit. We also have all the treats of Christmas, fennel, cactus pears, chestnuts, persimmons and figs. Lots of cookies at this time are made with fig fillings, not unlike fig Newton's.



grownups, lots of laughter and of course some squabbling, especially from the men since we started our new tradition of all the men cleaning up and washing the dishes after dinner. Hey it's only fair as the women spend days preparing the food.

Baccala, which is codfish, is one of the staples of dinner. You buy it dried and then you need to soak it for three days to get rid of the salt (changing the water each day). This is made in different ways and the way my mother makes it and our family likes best is fried.

Baccala

1 lb fresh or soaked codfish (see above)
3 eggs
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
1 cup breadcrumbs

Beat eggs, salt and pepper. Place cod in egg mixture and leave for one half hour. Coat cod pieces in breadcrumbs. Place separately on wax paper. Do not overlap.

In a large frying pan, heat olive oil. Add cod pieces and fry until brown on both sides, remove with a slotted spoon and place on platter.

Enjoy.

While talking to my friend Anne Lavery from the Chamber of Commerce she spoke fondly of her family holidays in P.E.I. They would forgo the presents and trappings of Christmas for the warmth of family.

Because of the distance people would have to travel, from four to six and half hours to gather together,

I used to do the 13-course dinner for my family and friends when I lived in Toronto, but now that I live in Haliburton, they do the cooking when I go back for Christmas. Good deal!

After dinner it was a time of family fun, kids playing, card games for the

Please see page 35



Season's Greetings!

From our family to yours,
we wish you a safe and festive holiday season!



Season's Greetings

Thank you for your
patronage.
Have a safe and happy
holiday season.

MICHELLE, MAUREEN, GRANT
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Merry Christmas

from the
Haliburton and District Lions Club



Your continued support allows us
to keep the spirit of giving alive
throughout the years.



From page 34

their motto is "Time together is more important than presents. Why spend time buying presents when time together is more valuable and all you need to bring is heart and love."

Anne says sometimes 25 of them would gather on the floor snuggling together watching Christmas movies. This is the best present, "being with my family and enjoying their love. I know it sounds corny but it is my happiest time"

Anne's Grandma would always say, "love, health and happiness is in your stocking. It's what Santa brings and it's all your need."

Nowadays they get together in Michigan, but they still keep the P.E.I. flavour. They do the traditional turkey dinner but as well they make Rawper, a traditional fish dish with potatoes, and Grandma's Meat Pie, the secret of which has yet to be given over to the family. Anne hopes to have this soon and make it part of her family tradition.

This evokes many memories for many people and we are so used to our own traditions that we forget that other cultures and religions celebrate differently around this time of year.

Hanukkah

This is not the Jewish Christmas as most assume, but commemorates the victory of the Jewish

Maccabees, led by the Mattathias and his son, Judah the Maccabee, over Syrian Greeks in a fight for religious freedom in ancient Israel. When triumphantly they returned to rededicate the Temple of Jerusalem, where they found only enough oil to burn for one day.

Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days, giving the Macabees time to find more.

For 2000 years, Jews still celebrate this victory by lighting candles for eight day, one the first evening and adding one each night thereafter, on a candelabra called a menorah. A special ninth candle, called the shames, stands taller than the rest in the menorah and is used to light the others. This is meant to show that one can give love and light to others without losing any of one's own radiance. At sundown the family sits down at the table blessings are said over the food, and Jewish songs are sung. If it a Sabbath night (Friday or Saturday) a special blessing is also said.

Although Hanukkah is the only Jewish Holiday connected with a battle, the festival solemnly reminds Jews of their peace-loving heritage. A reading from the prophet Zechariah is sometimes part of the ritual: "Not by strength, not by power, but by My spirit, sayeth the lord of Hosts."

This year Hanukkah starts December 19th.

Part of the tradition is that children receive one small present or trinket each night of the eight days. It could be coins, chocolates or toys. It is a very children cantered holiday and the house rings with games and songs, and stories.

Some of the traditional foods served are Latkes (potato pancakes) fried in oil to symbolizes the miracle oil.

Potato Latkes

2 lb potatoes peeled (5-6)
1 small onion
Small apple, peeled and cored
2 beaten eggs
1/2 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon snipped fresh parsley, or one quarter dried parsley flakes
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
Cooking oil
Applesauce
Sour cream

Shred potatoes, onion and apple together. Place in a colander set over a large bowl. Squeeze out the liquid and set aside till the white starch from the potatoes settles at the bottom of the bowl. Pour off the clear liquid, reserving starch to help in thickening. Return potato mixture to the bowl. Blend in eggs, flour, nutmeg, parsley, salt and pepper.

Heat one-quarter oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. For each latke place a generous tablespoonful of potato mixture in the oil. Flatten slightly. Cook 5 minutes or till golden brown, turning once

Drain on paper towels and keep warm in oven while frying remaining

potato mixture.

Serve with applesauce and sour cream. Makes 25.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a seven-day observance starting December 26 until January 1st of African American culture and community values. Kwanzaa means first fruits of the harvest. It started in 1966 and focuses on the community, responsibility, commerce and self-improvement. It is neither a religious or political holiday. It is a time of reaffirming African-American people their ancestors and culture based on seven principles.

Briefly they are

- 1) Togetherness for family and community
- 2) Self-Determination
- 3) Collective work and Responsibilities
- 4) Cooperative Economics
- 5) Set personal goals
- 6) Creativity
- 7) Honour traditions

The Kwanzaa table is set with symbolism: a unity cup to be passed from guest to guest and as many ears of corn as there are children in the family. Vegetables and fruits are recurring motifs, starting with a bold, red-bordered tablecloth. Fresh fruits heaped in baskets and a

seven candle Kinara, which represents the seven principles.

On of the dishes that can be serves is

Sweet Potato Pie

2 cups sweet potato, drained
4 tbsp melted margarine
3 eggs

1 cup sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp grated nutmeg
3/4 cup milk
1 tsp vanilla
1 9" pie shell
1/4 cup pecan pieces

Use food processor to mash sweet potatoes with melted margarine

Blend eggs, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add milk and vanilla. Pour mixture into baked pie shell.

Bake in 375 oven for 35-45 min. or until centre is set.

Rwandan

The Islamic holy holiday where Muslims may not eat or drink from morning until night, Ramadan, is the ninth month of the Islamic year. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls at different times of the year. This year is was from October 27th. Muslims celebrate Ramadan as the month during which the

prophet Muhammad received the first of the revelations that make up the Quran, the holy book of Islam.

Fasting begins at dawn and lasts until sunset. During this time, Muslims cannot take food or drink, inhale tobacco smoke or engage in sexual activity. The daily fast is broken by a light meal called the Iftar, followed by the evening prayer. The preferred food for the Iftar is dates and water

Ramadan is also a time for other religious activities. The nights are often devoted to special prayer. (Information taken the World of Books found in the local libraries.)

All over the world different cultures and religion celebrate their special events.

Whether its Hanukkah, Rwandan, Kwanzaa, Italian or the Christian Faith, the common thread are family, children, love and goodwill.

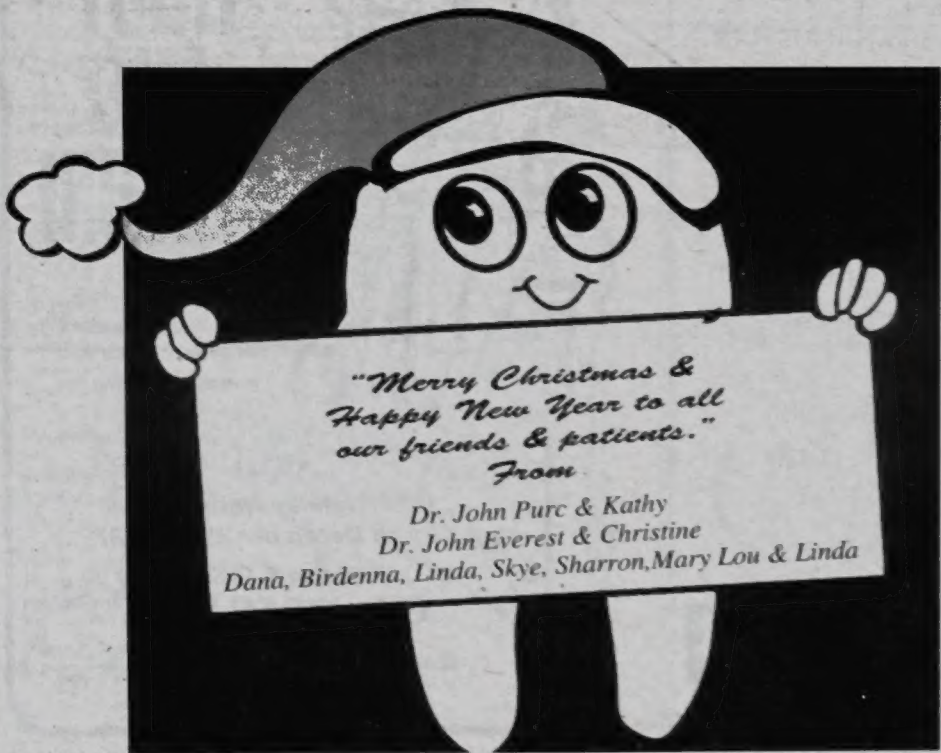
Let's make this a season to remember and as well reach out to those who have no family or going through rough time. After this season is about your fellow person.

Happy Holidays from me to you!
- Franka



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GIFTS & MORE...**

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and
Happy New Year**



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Happy New Year to all
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THE PLYWOOD SANTA

We were younger then, Santa Claus was much bigger

By Steve Galea

Maybe it's because my dad lived through countless hardships when he was growing up. In those formative years of his youth, there was no turkey and stuffing, just thin soups and boiled potatoes, if they could find them, and even then there was never enough. Instead of looking to the night sky with hopes of seeing Santa, he and his siblings watched the searchlight beams and machinegun tracers crisscross the darkness until they found marauding enemy aircraft.

And the whistling they heard was not born from a happiness that every child should feel, but from waves of Stuka dive bombers zeroing in on the nearby harbor and the Royal Navy fleet within. If there was anything shiny or gleaming on the tiny island of Malta in the early 1940s, it was merely the glint of discarded piles of brass shell casings spit out by the anti-aircraft batteries after they had fended off yet another terrifying raid.

My dad and his friends played with rocks and discarded pieces of wood. Soccer balls were scarce and they only dreamed of kites to soar off the windswept cliffs of their beleaguered homeland. Their one great toy was a wondrous silk parachute that he and his brother had removed, risking life and limb, from an unexploded anti-aircraft bomb. On discovery, his mother promptly turned it into underwear for his sisters.

I suppose these things must leave an indelible mark on a person. Perhaps, after you've watched your neighborhood turn to rubble, when you've seen young friends die from shrapnel, malnutrition and disease, when poverty is not just a word but a feeling deep in the pit of your stomach, you have every right to go overboard at Christmas in a prosperous new land.

Yes, the more I think about this, the less that I blame my father for disproportional joy he took in that plywood Santa or for the childlike innocence he's dis-



played each Christmas since then.

Looking back, it's been a part of our Christmas for as long as I can remember - I still have vague recollections of my father working in his garage, puffs of breath dispersing in the cold winter air, as he gathered patterns and plywood, jig saw, paint and brushes, so that after a long day of hard work, he could make that Christmas scene for us.

For my brother, sister and I, it was near magic. There, on our postage stamp-sized lawn, dad set that wondrous Yuletide scene. Santa, his sleigh, and a team of reindeer, all decked out with reigns of silver garlands and Christmas lights (the red one on Rudolph's nose) were there each December to remind us that a special season was upon us.

In the early years, he'd sit us all in the sleigh for a photo or two. We'd then stand on the sidewalk and marvel at it, especially at night and after a fresh snowfall, and you'd get this feeling that was hard to describe. It was part peacefulness and part quiet joy, a whispered wish that the moment would never pass, even as it was being swept away by the anticipation of Christmas Day.

That plywood Santa was the only one in our neighborhood and our friends would come for blocks to see

it, as it gleamed, freshly painted each year, under the blue and green floodlights that dad had set up. Because of that, the street was more festive and we felt more special.

We were younger then, Santa was much bigger, and the reindeer more majestic. They made our house more of a home; they made our Christmas more of a holiday; they made my dad more of a father. They made it easier to believe in Saint Nick, for, in our minds, they stood as proof positive before us. Why else would a grown man recreate them if they didn't exist?

Year after year, my dad would put them up. Year after year, we would stand back in admiration. It became a family custom, a sign of glad tidings to come.

But somewhere in that awkward transformation from boy to teenager these things became, if not an embarrassment, then something dangerously close. They seemed smaller, more childish and, even uncool. It was as if enjoying them meant you believed in Santa - and at 12 or 13 that was patently absurd and not the kind of rumour you wanted your friends to get a hold of.

So we parted ways, that plywood Santa and I. Sure I'd smile at him after I helped put him up, but mine was a condescending smile, the knowing grin of a teenager who thought he had it all figured out. Santa was for the little kids, I'd say.

Yet long after, Dad continued to put them up. He'd sit there contentedly and gaze out the window at the softly falling snow and the rainbow of lights that transformed a dull suburban street into something far better than it was. If a neighbor with a child or grandchild took an interest in that Santa, dad would happily encourage the kid to get closer or sit in the sleigh. He'd take delight in the innocent awe of a child who found himself so close to Santa and his crew. This plywood Santa was his special gift, not just to us, but also to the neighborhood.

Even after we were grown and gone, Santa and the reindeer continued to make appearances on my parents' lawn. And, strangely enough, with the passage of years, that plywood Santa, all smiles, glistening eyes, and rosy cheeks, once again became an old friend - the kind that visits for the holidays, the kind you look forward to seeing.

Now, I've watched my own kids sit in the sleigh and hold the reigns. I've marvelled at the joy these colorful silhouettes have brought. And I've felt a quiet pride for my father, the architect of all this, a thousand times since then.

Yes, indeed, all those things must have left an indelible mark on a person. And, I can't help but think that Joe's kids are all the better for it.



*There's No Place Like Home...
Especially At Christmas!*

*If home is where the heart is,
ours is certainly with the people
we've had the privilege to serve this year.
We're proud to be part of this community and
wish you all a very merry holiday season.*



**G.J. BURTCH
CONSTRUCTION**



HALIBURTON COUNTY
HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Blessings Of The Season

*May God's love shine
down upon you this
Christmas.*



Because we truly appreciate your business, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage and may your Christmas be filled with peace, love and joy and a New Year of health and prosperity.

Joe & Heather
Roberts, family
and staff



AMCO



ENJOY THE SEASON!

Although the weather's getting colder, we're warmed by thoughts of the many good friends we've made this year.

With gratitude and warm wishes for a fun-filled holiday season.

Holiday Hours:
Closed December 25, 26 & 27

**Glenn & Craig
G.P. TIRES PLUS**

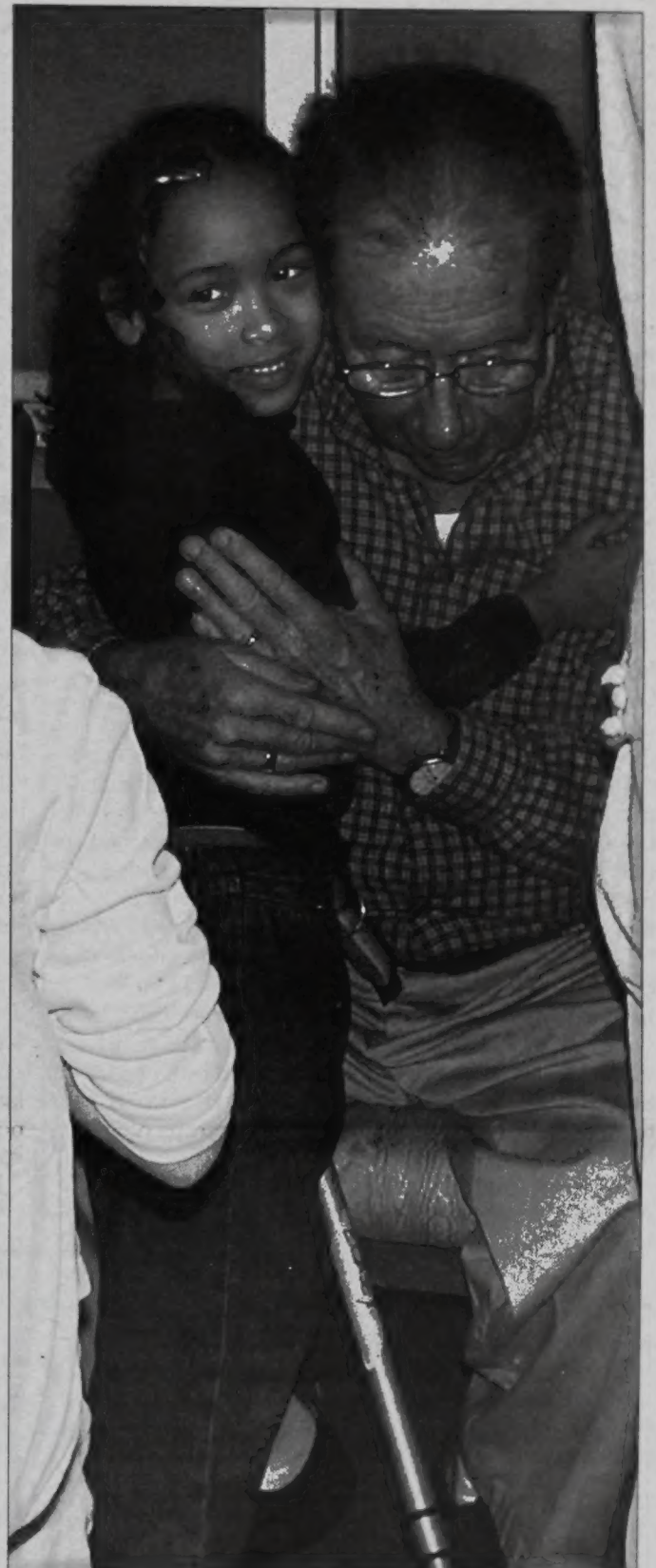
**Dave, Brad, Lorraine & Sheila
CARQUEST**

A HAPPY HOLIDAY VISIT

Stuart Baker students sing and smile for Highland Wood residents



RESIDENTS at Highland Wood sang along (left) with students from Stuart Baker Elementary School when the kids visited recently. The seniors were so impressed that they couldn't resist passing out a few hugs. One little guy reported, "a lady hugged me because she liked my shirt." Below, the students looked positively adorable as they sang out some Christmas favourites.



Photos by Sheryl Loucks



Season's Greetings

May your holiday spirits climb as the anticipation and excitement of the season mounts.

We hope you enjoy your holidays, and thank you all very kindly for your loyal support.



From the Staff at
Royal Homes Minden
Serving
Haliburton County
for over 30 years

The First Noel

May you and your loved ones enjoy a season of hope and enlightenment, and may we all join together in praying for peace on earth this Christmas.

Have a Blessed Christmas and New Years

Kathy, Ruth & Laura

MASTERS BOOKS
HALIBURTON



A Very Merry Christmas!

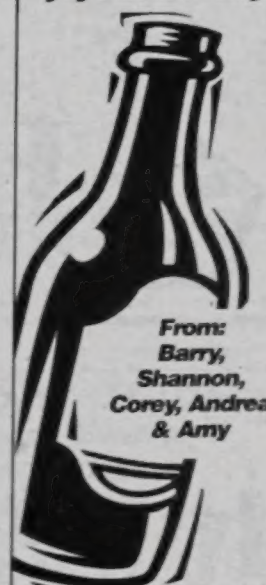


To all our friends and customers, thank you for your continued support.

Bob & Joan Mann
Highlands Printing & Publishing

Celebrate the Season!

Have a safe & joyous holiday!



The Beer Store
Be Responsible.
If you drink, - don't drive.



Season's Greetings Are On The Way!

What better time than now to renew our faith in the Lord and in good people like you!

Merry Christmas and heartfelt thanks.

Don Popple, Joe Iles, Len Salvatori, Andy Salvatori, Mike Iles, Bruce Bounsall, Bob Johnston, Leigh Bull, Lynn Troke, Marj Howard, Dale Emmerson, John McNeil, Greg Smith, Marcel Crete, Bob Bullock, Laurie Salvatori, Don Miller, Brian Woodley, Cleve Shaw, Mark Barry, Larry Dack, Dan MacMillan, Michael Troke, Norm Perrott, Jack McLean, Scott Howe, Helen Burk, Wayne Smith, Ken Kreller Jr., Stephen Schrader, Alan Cargill, Wren Billings, David Cook, Mitchell Clarkson, Adrian Winn, Morley Leonard, Bruce Swinson, Gary Burk, Matt Flowers, Scott Dobie, Wayne McNeil, Craig Mumford, Britney Hewitt

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